



Ex-Ukrainian prime minister in U.S. custody

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The Ukraine's former Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko was in U.S. custody Sunday following his arrest by immigration authorities at New York's John F. Kennedy airport, U.S. officials said. Lazarenko was detained Saturday on suspicion of illegally entering the United States. He was lacking proper travel documents including a visa, Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) spokesman Russ Bergeron told AFP. The former deputy and prime minister is wanted in the Ukraine on charges of embezzling public funds and illegally opening bank accounts outside the country.

U.S. governor defends personal handgun request

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Minnesota Governor and former pro-wrestler Jesse Ventura on Sunday defended his request for a permit to carry a handgun. Ventura, 47, brushed off criticism from the head of his Midwestern state's police association that the request, which was granted, sends the wrong signal. "I just had a death threat a week ago," Ventura said on NBC television. "There are times when I do not have my protection with me," Ventura, a former commando with the Navy Seals, pointed out that as Minnesota governor he is the state's top law enforcement officer, head of the Minnesota national guard, and head of the state troopers.

Hungry camel herd attacks picnickers

RAS AL KHAJMAH (AFP) — A gang of eight hungry camels charged a picnic being enjoyed by two Jordanian families in this northern area of the United Arab Emirates, a newspaper reported Sunday. The camels appeared from behind a hill and descended on the food "making loud, angry noises," Gulf News said. "It took only seconds for them to be among us... we fled with the children from the picnic site," one of the mothers said, quoted by the newspaper. One of the children was slightly injured in the attack. Attempts to drive away the camels with sticks and stones failed.

Anti-nuclear protesters invade NATO base

KLEINE BROGEL (AFP) — More than 100 anti-nuclear protesters forced their way into a NATO base here Sunday, police said. An unspecified number of militants were arrested, police added. Organisers put the figure of those detained at 80. Organisers — representing Mother Earth and War Resisters International — said that two demonstrators were attacked by military guard dogs. The action was intended to protest against the presence of 10 nuclear bombs at the base, located near the border with the Netherlands, the organisers said.

Finnish woman shoots three dead at shooting range

HELSINKI (AFP) — An unidentified woman shot dead three men and seriously wounded a fourth at a shooting club in central Helsinki on Sunday, police said. They said the three dead were shot in the head, and the woman fled the building immediately after the incident, which took place at 4:00 p.m. local time. A restaurant neighbouring the shooting range was closed and streets in the neighbourhood were blocked off to traffic, as police searched the area. Police forces across southern Finland were mobilised to find the woman, Finnish Television said.

3 children killed in Russian school fire

MOSCOW (AP) — A fire swept through a boarding school in Siberia on Sunday, killing at least three children, emergency officials said. The early morning blaze destroyed the second floor of the five-storey building at School No. 66 in Novokuznetsk, where children's bedrooms were located, said a spokesman for the emergency ministry. Three children under 15 years old were killed and four were hospitalised. The other 92 children in the building were evacuated to a summer camp facility, the spokesman said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة للصحافة الأردنية. الراي



Volume 24 Number 7077

AMMAN MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1999, DHUL QADAH 6, 1419

Price: Jordan 200 Fils

King expresses appreciation for Prince Hassan's efforts

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Abdullah on Sunday sent a reply to a message from HRH Prince Hassan expressing deep appreciation for his "distinguished and fruitful efforts and services."

In reply to Prince Hassan's message to the King on Feb. 9, King Abdullah requested that the Prince continue to head the Higher Council of Science and Technology (HCST) and to dedicate his efforts to promoting the country's efforts in the fields of science and technology.

The HCST is the umbrella body for a number of organisations that include the Royal Scientific Society, the National Information Centre, the Royal Geographic Society, and the Centre for Human Resources Development.

Informed sources said yesterday that the government will submit to Parliament an amendment to the HCST law, which currently places the council under the chairmanship of the Crown Prince.

Following is the text of the King's message:

"I am sending you Hashemite Arab greetings reflecting affection and pride in your remarkable and abundant knowledge and your sound and wide views and extensive experience. I highly value your services over the past years that the late King Hussein, may God bless his soul, entrusted to you in recognition of your qualifications and potential and in response to your desire and enthusiasm to serve by his side. You served the

late King as a brother, companion and supporter worthy of confidence and appreciation.

I have received, with the respect and gratitude that we have all been taught in Al Hussein's school, your kind letter expressing your noble feelings and sincere affection and your noble qualities, congratulating us on assuming the top responsibility for dear Jordan and HRH Prince Hamzah upon assuming the position of Crown Prince. In your letter, you have declared before God, the nation and people that you will be for us and the Crown Prince, a brother and supporter who will not spare any knowledge, love or support. This is what we have been accustomed to and what the Jordanian people have been used to in their relation with the Hashemite family who God has brought together and who have reflected amity, solidarity, purity and clear conscience.

While expressing my deepest gratitude and appreciation to my dear uncle for every word contained in your kind letter, I am reaffirming our appreciation of your distinguished services and sincere and fruitful efforts which you exerted side-by-side with King Hussein and with support and direction from him throughout the past years in the construction of numerous national institutions, uppermost among them the HCST, the Arab Thought Forum, Al al Bayt Foundation, and Al al Bayt University. These institutions were instrumental in expanding the scopes of science and technology in our society

and our life. Your sincere and tireless efforts through the Arab Thought Forum played a key role in bringing together Arab scholars and intellectuals, uniting their efforts in discussing our nation's main issues and crystallising its future visions.

Your efforts through Al al Bayt Foundation and Al al Bayt University were fruitful — thank God — as they have both contributed to a great extent in crystallising the bright and correct image of Islam, of moderate and civilised Islam, conveying to the world a vision of an Islam free of fanaticism, bigotry or intolerance. You have enriched this experiment through your sponsorship of interfaith dialogue, allowing scholars to meet in an atmosphere of openness and tolerance and enhancing common grounds and the main axes around which the followers of the three monotheistic religions gather.

Now that these institutions have been established and borne fruit, I am entrusting you with the task of continued chairmanship of the HCST in order to dedicate your efforts towards promoting and activating the council's plans and programmes and increasing its achievements with what God has bestowed on you of knowledge and wisdom and with all the extensive experience and potential you have acquired over the years and ability to work for the future and to meet this age's requirements of science and technology in order to benefit from it in various fields of life. I am hopeful that we will

meet continuously in order to examine your plans and programmes and to exchange views and consultations about their implementation and to attain their objectives.

While expressing to my dear uncle my deepest pride and appreciation of your services which will continue with God's help, I am reaffirming that these institutions in which you worked alongside with King Hussein will remain beacons of science, thought and knowledge. I am confident that you will not spare your advice, knowledge and sound opinion for these institutions. You will remain as you have always been, my dear uncle to whom I harbour affection, respect and appreciation as I consider you as a thinker, a scholar and man of sound vision whose knowledge is sought and views are taken. I implore God the Almighty to protect you and to bestow on you health and happiness and to guide our steps towards what is good for our country and nation."

Prince Hassan had earlier sent King Abdullah a letter in which he congratulated him and Crown Prince Hamzah on the assumption of their constitutional duties, wishing them success in serving Jordan and the Arab Nation.

In the letter, Prince Hassan pledged to be a brother and supporter of the King and the Crown Prince, committing himself to providing the knowledge and support that he offered to his late brother King Hussein.



His Majesty King Abdullah offers condolences to a member of the family of an officer killed in the line of duty last week (Petra photo)

King offers condolences to families of slain officers

TAFLEH (Petra) — His Majesty King Abdullah on Sunday visited the southern town of Tafleeh, where he called on the Faraheed and Khawaldeh clans to offer his condolences over the deaths of two police officers killed in the line of duty last Wednesday.

Sergeants Mohammad Daifallah Khawaldeh and Mahmoud Salmeh Faraheed were killed by two prisoners who overpowered them in a van that was transferring the prisoners from the State Security Court in Amman to Swaqa prison, 100 kilometres south of Amman, after a court session.

The prisoners, Mohammad Jaghameen and Abdullah Suleiman, were on trial for the murder of 12 people in separate incidents in the Shmeisani and Rabia neighbourhoods of Amman.

Suleiman was killed in an ensuing shoot-out with police, while Jaghameen was wounded before being recaptured.

King Abdullah met Faraheed's wife, children and relatives and was informed about their needs and status. The King ordered that their needs be met.

Expressing appreciation to King Abdullah, the members of the two clans

in Tafleeh said the King's visit helped console them in their time of grief.

The two clans and the citizens of the Tafleeh governorate pledged allegiance to King Abdullah and the Hashemite leadership. Their stand was expressed by the uncle of officer Khawaldeh and other citizens of Tafleeh.

King Abdullah was accompanied on the visit by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, the chief chamberlain, Prince Faisal, Prince Hashem, Prince Talal Ben Mohammad and Public Security Department Director Nasouh Muhieddin.

Arafat says Palestinians will elect his successor

Norwegian FM asks Arafat not to declare state in May

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat said Sunday that he would leave the choice of who should succeed him to the Palestinians.

Arafat, reportedly suffering from serious health problems, has long refused to appoint a vice president for the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). "I am sure that any one who will succeed me will be elected by the Palestinian people," Arafat said during a news conference with Norway's Foreign Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik.

Many assumed that Mahmoud Abbas, Arafat's deputy in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), would succeed him.

But the diaspora-created PLO is gradually being superseded by the PNA, and a new leader will likely need to win — as Arafat has done — a plebiscite.

Bondevik urged Arafat to pursue the troubled peace negotiations with Israel and not carry out a threat to unilaterally declare an independent state on May 4.

Bondevik, whose nation hosted secret talks between Israelis and Palestinians which led to the Oslo peace accords in 1993, said the two sides must continue negotiating even after the five-year interim period set out in those agreements expires next May.

"I made it very clear that the parties should go back to the negotiations and that there is a need for more time after the date of May 4," Bondevik said during the press conference with Arafat.

He also hinted that the statehood issue could have a negative impact for Palestinians in Israeli general elections scheduled for May 17.

"We don't know who will be leading the government in Israel after the elections on May 17," he said.

Bondevik, on the first visit to the Gaza Strip by a Norwegian premier, said he and Arafat spoke in depth about the stalemate in the peace process since Israel froze implementation of the Wye River accord in December.

Bondevik said he spoke with Arafat about the need to fight terrorism and cooperate in security matters with the Israelis as well as to make further progress in improving the human rights situation in areas governed by the PNA.

But he reaffirmed Norway's strong backing for the Palestinians, including significant humanitarian aid.

"I have promised the president that we will continue our support," he said.

Bondevik, who had been due to visit the region in September but postponed the trip due to exhaustion, flew into Israel late Saturday and drove to Gaza City by car for talks with Arafat and a tour of a refugee camp near here.

He was then scheduled to visit the West Bank town of Bethlehem for talks with Palestinian officials on the Bethlehem 2000 tourism and infrastructure project to prepare for the flood of tourists expected for the millennium.

Bondevik's government is a major donor to Bethlehem 2000.

Monday, the Norwegian leader will hold talks in Israel with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Ezer Weizman.

Five international firms submit bids to set up country's second mobile phone network

By Ghadeer Taher

AMMAN — Five international telecommunications firms have submitted bids to supply and set up the second mobile phone network in Jordan, industry sources said Sunday.

Besides providing the equipment and building infrastructure, the bidders, submitted Saturday and opened Sunday, provide for technical assistance to the operator — the state-owned Jordan Telecommunications Corporation (JTC), whose monopoly on the sector will end by Dec. 31, 2002.

JTC officials said they hoped to operate the new service, with nationwide coverage, by August.

Nortel of Canada, Nokia of Finland, Ericsson of Sweden, Alcatel of France and Siemens of Germany submitted bids for the multi-million dollar contract.

The companies will have to qualify technically before proceeding to the final stage — the financial evaluation.

The Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC) has not yet issued the telecommunications company a Global Systems for Mobile (GSM) licence.

But TRC Director General Youssef Abu Jamous was quoted by the Arabic daily Al Arab Al Yawm on Saturday as saying that a licence would be issued soon.

He did not provide details of the conditions, and senior JTC officials were not immediately available for comment.

However, a senior government official said the TRC has given the JTC a draft licence.

The JTC is still studying the terms of the licence and is expected to finalise an agreement by the end of this month," he told the Jordan Times.

The JTC has issued the tender, but it remains unclear if the new GSM service will operate as part of the JTC or as a separate entity. Earlier, officials said that they expected the JTC to form a subsidiary to run the mobile service.

Jordan Mobile Telephone

age, by August.

Nortel of Canada, Nokia of Finland, Ericsson of Sweden, Alcatel of France and Siemens of Germany submitted bids for the multi-million dollar contract.

The companies will have to qualify technically before proceeding to the final stage — the financial evaluation.

The Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC) has not yet issued the telecommunications company a Global Systems for Mobile (GSM) licence.

But TRC Director General Youssef Abu Jamous was quoted by the Arabic daily Al Arab Al Yawm on Saturday as saying that a licence would be issued soon.

He did not provide details of the conditions, and senior JTC officials were not immediately available for comment.

However, a senior government official said the TRC has given the JTC a draft licence.

The JTC is still studying the terms of the licence and is expected to finalise an agreement by the end of this month," he told the Jordan Times.

The JTC has issued the tender, but it remains unclear if the new GSM service will operate as part of the JTC or as a separate entity. Earlier, officials said that they expected the JTC to form a subsidiary to run the mobile service.

He did not provide details of the conditions, and senior JTC officials were not immediately available for comment.

However, a senior government official said the TRC has given the JTC a draft licence.

Service (Fastlink), the country's sole mobile service provider, has said that giving JTC the licence without going through an open tender process violates the terms of their agreement.

Fastlink filed a breach of contract case against the government in December 1997. But the Higher Court of Justice, after deliberating the case for a year, said it had no jurisdiction to rule on it.

The government and Fastlink tried to settle the case out of court. Besides the issue of an open tender, Fastlink has insisted that the second mobile phone service operator be subjected to similar conditions.

It is not yet known what

action Fastlink will take when the TRC formally issues the licence.

In addition to JD7 million for the licence, it paid JD14.8 million to scrap the now-defunct car telephone system and an additional JD27.4 million in total guaranteed payment to the government over a four-year operational period.

Fastlink, which has over 60,000 subscribers, pays the JTC 60 fils at peak time and 40 fils off-peak in interconnect fees. These rates are considered by the industry as among the highest in the world.

Also, Fastlink has a 20 per cent revenue sharing agreement with the government.

Iraq claims Western warplane hit in southern no-fly zone

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said its forces fired a missile and hit a Western warplane which was patrolling the southern no-fly zone on Sunday.

The United States and Britain denied the report.

A military communiqué quoted by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said: "In another aborted attempt, one of many aggressions to try to harm Iraq, the murderous crows returned and violated our national airspace today."

"Iraqi air defences intercepted these hostile formations, and there are indications that one of the planes in the formation was hit by a missile from our resistance units on the ground," it said.

It did not say whether the aircraft was shot down but added that the planes fled Iraqi airspace.

INA said that the planes flew 24 sorties from Kuwait and 18 sorties from Saudi Arabian bases using planes including F-14s, F-15s, and F-18s supported by AWAC early warning aircraft.

U.S. and British planes are patrolling the no-fly zones set up in the south to protect Shiite Muslims and the north to protect Kurds after the 1991 Gulf War.

The U.S. Defence Department and the defence ministry in London said all of their aircraft had returned safely.

"The report is false. All of the morning flights [over the southern zone] were uneventful," said Pentagon spokesman Mike Byers.

The patrols have intensified in the last few months since Iraq said it did not recognise the exclusion area and following a U.S.-British missile attack on Baghdad in December.

Iraq reported three times last week that Western planes flew sorties in the northern no-fly zone and twice said they violated its airspace in the south.

INA said Sunday's flights took place at 9:45 a.m. local time with sorties over Basra, Misan, Dhi Qar and Muthanna provinces.

Iraq has threatened to attack the bases in its two southern Gulf neighbours for letting the U.S. and British planes use them. It has also asked Turkey to stop letting warplanes launch sorties from its base, an appeal Turkey last week rejected.

Four top generals retired

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Abdullah, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, on Sunday retired four top army major generals, including Tahsin Shurdoom, the second in command for nearly a decade, official sources said.

In the first reshuffle of army ranks, Ghazi Tayyeb, assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for operations, was transferred to the Royal Court. The sources said he was named assistant to HRH Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad, the King's advisor for tribal affairs.

They said the five men, all assistants to Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Mirai Kaabneh, were officially notified of the decision on Sunday. An official announcement is expected soon after the names of their successors are finally decided, they added.

General Shurdoom, who had been in charge of ground operations for nearly a decade, was also a senior member of

the Jordanian team that negotiated and signed the 1994 peace treaty with Israel.

The other three major generals are Eid Rweidat, chief of military intelligence; Hamzeh Al Azb, head of personnel; and Mohammad Abbadi, head of administration.

Officials expected the King to introduce other changes to different ranks of the army as part of continued efforts to modernise the forces.

The King was heavily involved in the modernisation process during his 14-year army career before taking over the Throne. He last served as Commander of the Special Operations Command, the army's elite forces.

"The King is aiming to move forward with plans to modernise the Armed Forces that were laid by the late King Hussein," said one of the sources.

"As a career officer and professional soldier, the King is familiar with all the army's capabilities."

Lebanon's PM asks Mubarak to press Israel to leave village

CAIRO (R) — Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Hoss on Sunday called on Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to press Israel to end its takeover of a village in South Lebanon.

Israel and its proxy militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), effectively annexed the village of Amoun to their occupation zone in South Lebanon on Thursday by installing lines of barbed wire and landmines to prevent access from the rest of Lebanon.

"I asked President Mubarak to assist us on this issue by contacting major Arab countries to pressure

Israel to withdraw from this village... and to stop its continuous attacks on Lebanon's land and people," Hoss told reporters after meeting Mubarak.

Hoss said he did not expect Israel to withdraw from Lebanon ahead of Israeli elections due in May. "Israel is fooling the world by promising to withdraw from Lebanon," he added. Hoss said Lebanon insists that Israel implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from the south.

Egypt's Foreign Minister

Amr Musa said: "What is more dangerous than this [Israeli actions in Lebanon] is that South Lebanon could become a toy in Israeli elections." Musa said Egypt would support Lebanon in any steps it took to regain its land. Esmat Abdul Meguid, secretary general of the Cairo-based Arab League, said after his talks with Hoss that Israel's move into Amoun called for an immediate, unified Arab stand.

He said Lebanese resistance groups were forcing Israel to pay a high price for its occupation of South Lebanon.

Amoun lies on the fringe of the occupied zone, overlooked by an Israeli position in the Crusader-era Beaufort Castle.

The Israeli action was intended to prevent guerrillas from using the village. Iranian-backed Hizbollah (Party of God) guerrillas often mount attacks near Amoun. Israel has controlled parts of South Lebanon since 1978. It set up the security zone in 1985, saying it was needed to protect its northern border against guerrilla attacks.



BUILDING COLLAPSES IN LEBANON: Lebanese civil defence workers search a collapsed building in the town of Kakhaleh Saturday. At least five people were killed and three injured when a building on the Beirut-Damascus highway collapsed on Saturday. Witnesses said the four-storey building, home to mostly Syrian workers, blocked the highway when it collapsed. Red Cross workers sent five bodies to nearby hospitals and said they expected to pull out more people from the rubble which fell on passing cars and pedestrians. The reason for the accident was not immediately known but a woman who lived nearby said she saw workers examining and repairing the support columns of the building earlier in the afternoon (Reuters photo)

Costs of Likud's American campaign guru queried

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's ruling Likud Party is paying a right-wing American political consultant half a million dollars to run Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's reelection campaign, the Haaretz newspaper said Sunday.

The newspaper said Likud had agreed to pay \$300,000 to Arthur Finkelstein to plan its campaign strategy for May elections, in addition to a \$4,000 monthly retainer he has been receiving since he helped Netanyahu win election in May 1996.

The party is also paying Finkelstein's travel and hotel expenses for twice-monthly trips to Jerusalem, where he coaches Netanyahu and Likud candidates in the art of soundbite attack campaigning, it said.

The paper estimated that

by the time voters go to the polls on May 17 to elect a parliament and prime minister, Likud would have paid Finkelstein at least \$500,000.

Netanyahu spokesman Aviv Bushinsky disputed the Haaretz figures but declined to say how much Finkelstein was being paid.

"The figures relating to the fees of Arthur Finkelstein are much lower than what was printed in the newspaper," Bushinsky told AFP.

But when asked how much the consultant he was receiving, Bushinsky said, "I don't think it's necessary to give information about the precise figures."

"The whole Finkelstein

issue and the costs of his employment are under the supervision and the approval of Likud institutions and other relevant bodies," he said.

Finkelstein is credited with masterminding Netanyahu's successful 1996 election victory over incumbent Prime Minister Shimon Peres with a series of slogans accusing the then-Labour leader of weakness in negotiating peace accords with the Palestinians.

The U.S. consultant, who works for conservative Republicans, notably came up with Netanyahu's central election slogan, "Peres will divide Jerusalem" — an accusation the Labour chief would let the Palestinians make Arab east Jerusalem the capital of a future state.

According to several

Israeli press reports, Netanyahu speaks nightly by telephone with Finkelstein to work out "talking points" for ministers and other Likud candidates to use the next day against the

Labour Party and other opponents. Most recently Finkelstein suggested Likud accuse the Labour Party of racism after an outgoing Labour MP who is an Ethiopian immigrant levelled the charge at Labour's candidate for premier, Ehud Barak, after being eliminated from the party ticket in an internal primary last week.

The incident was seen as damaging to Barak's attempt to put together a broad election alliance dubbed "One Israel" to challenge Likud.

According to Likud insiders quoted in the Israeli press, Finkelstein's talking points involve short, punchy attacks focused primarily on Labour and branding Netanyahu's opponents as "leftists" unsuited to govern.

Elections focus on the battle for Tehran

TEHRAN (AFP) — The walls of Tehran are plastered with election posters as conservatives and reformers lurch for the battle of next Friday's municipal elections, in which the capital is seen as the major prize.

Two main lists are dominating the campaign, as much for the ubiquity of their slogans and pictures as for the prominence and standing of their candidates.

The reformist list, which includes three women, is led by former Interior Minister Abdullah Nuri, a close associate of President Mohammad Khatami, and publisher of the pro-Khatami paper Khorshid.

The reformers are pledging "real participation in power" — a reflection of the new political openness at the top of Khatami's agenda.

They are hoping to benefit from the wave of public enthusiasm for reform that brought Khatami to power in 1997, when he gained 75 per cent of

the vote in Tehran. Nouri is also hoping to profit from the popularity of another associate, former reformist Mayor Gholamhossein Karbaschi, himself disqualified from office after being found guilty of corruption in a trial last year overseen by conservatives.

Facing the reformers is the right-wing conservative list, headed by Ali Kamushi, head of the powerful chamber of commerce and an influential member of the Tehran bazaar, a stronghold of traditionalists.

There are two women on the list, and only one member of the clergy, in a clear sign that the conservatives are anxious to rid themselves of their traditionalist image, and to present themselves instead as efficient administrators.

They have toned down their rhetoric about remaining faithful to the Islamic revolution, and put the city's problems at the forefront of their campaign — uncontrolled building development, pollution, cor-

ruption and unemployment. Their posters call for a humane and modern administration, and preach respect for traditional architecture.

"The city's development can be guaranteed by specialists working for the people," their posters read.

Another list, also close to Khatami, includes four members of the outlawed but tolerated Iran Freedom Movement, which has been prevented from standing elsewhere in the country. Beyond the clash of factions, the current election campaign has thrown up a new political style, making a more direct appeal to voters and addressing the issues which interest them, rather than relying on the conventional arguments of the past.

Indicative of the new mood is the poster campaign of one of the independents, Sadeq Samiei, a British-trained journalist. His election photo — pasted up all over the city — shows him sporting a tie, an

item that has been ridiculed since the revolution 20 years ago as mere aping of Western fashion.

The English language Iran News has spotted the new trend and approves it.

"The code of dress no longer plays a determining role in candidate's success or failure. This social tolerance could be found only at the very early stages of the revolution," it wrote.

"One candidate used caricatures in promoting his candidacy which was like a breath of fresh air compared to the suffocating traditional style," it added.

"Contrary to the norm in other elections, most candidates emphasise their professional and educational backgrounds instead of relying solely on their revolutionary experience," the paper said.

The municipal elections, being held throughout the country, are the first of their kind since the 1979 revolution.

'Lockerbie assurance unneeded'

TUNIS (R) — Libya said on Sunday it was having a good laugh at suggestions that its government might be undermined by prosecutors' questions and arguments if two suspects face trial for the 1988 Lockerbie airliner bombing.

"The diplomatic editor of the Libyan news agency JANA laughed at those media that still believe that Libya has a regime similar to that of other societies," JANA said.

"The Libyan popular system is stronger than any system in the world, and therefore cannot be weakened and doesn't need any protection whatever," it added.

The agency, monitored in Tunis, was commenting on reports that U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan sent a letter to Libya on Wednesday with clarifications over the arrangements for a trial of two Libyan suspects by a Scottish court sitting in the Netherlands.

Diplomats at the U.N. told Reuters Annan was proposing that Scottish prosecutors should not attempt to undermine the Libyan government, adding the trial would still need to delve into the motives behind the bombing which destroyed a Pan Am airliner

over Lockerbie, Scotland and killed 270 people.

The JANA dispatch was the first public Libyan comment on Lockerbie since Annan's letter was sent to Tripoli as a result of mediation efforts by South African and Saudi envoys.

On Friday, a Libyan envoy at the U.N. had made some preliminary observations on Annan's letter, but it was not clear whether Libya would announce a definite decision to extradite the suspects ahead of the Security Council review of sanctions on Friday.

Sources said Libya, which indicated earlier it was willing to hand over the suspects, wanted assurances that sanctions imposed in 1992 would be lifted, not merely suspended, when the accused arrived in the Netherlands.

The sanctions include a ban on flights to and from Libya and an embargo on some types of oil equipment. The United States and Britain have dropped their insistence that the trial take place in either country and challenged Libya to make good on its offer to let the suspects face trial on neutral ground.

The sanctions include a ban on flights to and from Libya and an embargo on some types of oil equipment. The United States and Britain have dropped their insistence that the trial take place in either country and challenged Libya to make good on its offer to let the suspects face trial on neutral ground.

The sanctions include a ban on flights to and from Libya and an embargo on some types of oil equipment. The United States and Britain have dropped their insistence that the trial take place in either country and challenged Libya to make good on its offer to let the suspects face trial on neutral ground.

The sanctions include a ban on flights to and from Libya and an embargo on some types of oil equipment. The United States and Britain have dropped their insistence that the trial take place in either country and challenged Libya to make good on its offer to let the suspects face trial on neutral ground.

The sanctions include a ban on flights to and from Libya and an embargo on some types of oil equipment. The United States and Britain have dropped their insistence that the trial take place in either country and challenged Libya to make good on its offer to let the suspects face trial on neutral ground.

The sanctions include a ban on flights to and from Libya and an embargo on some types of oil equipment. The United States and Britain have dropped their insistence that the trial take place in either country and challenged Libya to make good on its offer to let the suspects face trial on neutral ground.

The sanctions include a ban on flights to and from Libya and an embargo on some types of oil equipment. The United States and Britain have dropped their insistence that the trial take place in either country and challenged Libya to make good on its offer to let the suspects face trial on neutral ground.

The sanctions include a ban on flights to and from Libya and an embargo on some types of oil equipment. The United States and Britain have dropped their insistence that the trial take place in either country and challenged Libya to make good on its offer to let the suspects face trial on neutral ground.

The sanctions include a ban on flights to and from Libya and an embargo on some types of oil equipment. The United States and Britain have dropped their insistence that the trial take place in either country and challenged Libya to make good on its offer to let the suspects face trial on neutral ground.

Iraqi Shiites march over cleric's death

AMMAN (R) — security forces broke up a demonstration on Sunday protesting the murder of a leading Shiite Muslim cleric in Iraq, witnesses said.

They said scores of protesters were dispersed peacefully after marching for five minutes in central Amman in memory of Ayatollah

Mohammad Sadeq Sadr, a leading Shiite figure from the southern Iraqi holy city of Najaf.

The demonstrators had marched, chanting slogans calling for revenge for the ayatollah's death.

Sunday's brief march was a rare demonstration of growing numbers of Iraqi immi-

grants in Jordan.

Government officials have said 160,000 Iraqis may be living in Jordan after fleeing their sanctions-hit country.

Friday's killing of Ayatollah Sadr was the second reported attack against a Shiite cleric in Iraq this year and followed the killings last year of two ayatollahs of Iranian origin in

the overwhelmingly Shiite south of the country.

Iraq has blamed unnamed foreign intelligence services for previous killings but neighbouring Iran has accused the mainly Sunni Muslim Baghdad government of responsibility.

JORDAN TELEVISION

19:10 — News headlines
19:35 — Doc. — Perspective
20:00 News in Arabic (Channel 2 links up with channel 1)
20:30 Programme on the late His Majesty King Hussein
21:00 — Islamic History in Jordan
21:30 — On the Banks of Jordan
22:00 — News in English
22:10 Doc. — National Geographic
23:00 — News in Arabic (Channel 2 links up with channel 1)

PRAYER TIMES

04:50 — Fajr
06:08 — (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:49 — Dhuhr
15:00 — Asr
17:30 — Maghreb
18:48 — Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifheh, Tel. 5920740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 4632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624590
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 4622366
Anglican Church Tel. 4624853/4624811
St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 4771751
Amman International Church Tel. 5865897

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5688404
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 5811295
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 4654932
St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel. 5661757
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 4637440
Greek Orthodox Church Tel. 4646138
Church of Presentation, Sweifheh Tel. 5920146
The Uniate Catholic Church Tel. 4624757
The English-Language Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190
Evangelical Free Church Tel. 4892679
The Baptist Church Tel. 4628052
The Armenian Catholic Church 4771331
The Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 4775261

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 11, Aqaba 19 Humidity readings: Amman 44 per cent, Aqaba 29 per cent.

Following are the temperatures expected today in the following areas:
Ajlun 03/10
Jerash 05/16
Um Qays 05/16
Madaba 03/13
Petra 04/14
Dead Sea 11/22

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Abdul Majid Al Sha'ir 4391405
Dr. Fakhri Tayeh 4915880
Dr. Fakher Bileid 5522333
Dr. Mazen Nthali 5350435
AMMAN:
Firas Pharmacy 5661912
Al Salam Pharmacy 4636730
Mayadah Pharmacy 5537004
Rukn Al Dawa Pharmacy 5536169
IRBID:
Min/Max. temp.

AMMAN.....01/14
Aqaba.....07/21
Deserts.....1/15
Jordan Valley.....04/20

Dr. Mahmud Abul Rajja (02)345209
Fou'ad Pharmacy (02)275360

ZARQA:
Dr. Hisham Sharabati (05)986632
Palestine Pharmacy (05)983562

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 4637111
Civil Defence Department 5661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 4630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 4621111, 4637777
Fire Brigade 4671021
Blood Bank 4775121
Highway Police 5343402
Traffic Police 4896390
Public Security Dept. 4630321
Hotel Complaints 5605800
Price Complaints 5661176
Water & Sewerage Complaints 4697467
Amman Municipality Complaints 4787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 0132
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 4623101
Abdali Tel. Repairs 5661101
Jordan Television 4773111
Radio Jordan 4774111
Water Authority 5680100
J. Electricity Authority 5815615
Electric Power Co. 4636381
RJ Flight Information 44-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 44-53200

AMMAN:
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5921199
The Islamic Abdi 56661317
Husseini Medical Centre 5856836
Luzmila 4630195
Khalidi Maternity 4642816
Akhil Maternity 46434412
Jabal Amman Maternity 4643262
Malhas, J. Amman 4636140
Palestine, Shmeisari 5607071
Shmeisani Hospital 5607431
Jordan Hospital 5607550
University Hospital 5353444
Al-Muasher Hospital 56672279
Al-Ahli, Abdali 56641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 47771013
Al-Bashir 477511126
Army, Marka 489161115
Queen Alia Hospital 5157100
Amal Hospital 5607155
Al Amal Cancer Centre 5353000

ZARQA:
Zarqa Gov. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)90560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986731
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Roman Catholic Hospital (02)27275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)7101372, (02)7103101
Rosary Sisters Hospital (02)7102831, (02)7102011

HOSPITALS

Speciality Hospital (02)7103100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)2014111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (44)53200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone 44 (53700). Information on Royal Wings flights can be supplied on phone 4875201-5

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
08:15 Sanaa (RJ)
08:30 Damascus (RJ)
08:35 Jeddah (RJ)
08:50 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:20 Beirut (RJ)
11:30 New Delhi (RJ)
16:20 Cairo (RJ)
16:25 London (RJ)
16:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:05 Kuwait (RJ)
18:35 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
19:30 Lamaca (add) (RJ)
20:45 Bangkok, Doha (RJ)
23:15 Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:00 Beirut (RJ)
11:00 Shannon, Chicago (RJ)
12:05 Kuwait (RJ)
12:15 London (RJ)
12:30 Cairo (RJ)
16:15 Lamaca (add) (RJ)

Other Flights
08:20 Alexandria (BA)
09:30 Cairo (MS)
10:00 Khartoum (SD)
13:20 Bahrain (GF)
14:45 Doha (QR)
15:05 Vienna (OS)
15:25 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (EK)
17:50 Istanbul (ME)
18:40 Beirut (ME)
19:15 Frankfurt (LH)
22:25 Tel Aviv (LY)
01:25 Amsterdam (KL)
01:25 Athens (OA)

Royal Wings (RW)
08:50 Aqaba (arriving at QALIA) (RW)
09:35 Aqaba (arriving at Marka Airport) (RW)
16:00 Aqaba (arriving at Marka Airport) (RW)
17:30 Gaza (arriving at QALIA) (RW)
23:05 Tel Aviv (arriving at QALIA) (RW)

Other Flights
06:00 Istanbul (TK)
07:25 Paris (AF)
09:05 London (BA)
10:30 Cairo (MS)
11:05 Istanbul (SD)
14:10 Bahrain (GF)
15:30 Vienna (OS)
15:35 Doha (QR)
16:30 Dubai (EK)
18:50 Khartoum (SD)
20:00 Beirut (ME)
23:10 Tel Aviv (LY)
02:25 Amsterdam (KL)
02:45 Athens (OA)

Royal Wings (RW)
08:30 Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)
13:30 Gaza (from Marka Airport) (RW)
20:30 Aqaba (from QALIA) (RW)
21:00 Tel Aviv (from QALIA) (RW)
18:50 Khartoum (SD)
20:00 Beirut (ME)
23:10 Tel Aviv (LY)
02:25 Amsterdam (KL)
02:45 Athens (OA)

Royal Wings (RW)
08:30 Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)
13:30 Gaza (from Marka Airport) (RW)
20:30 Aqaba (from QALIA) (RW)
21:00 Tel Aviv (from QALIA) (RW)

Royal Wings (RW)
08:30 Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)
13:30 Gaza (from Marka Airport) (RW)
20:30 Aqaba (from QALIA) (RW)
21:00 Tel Aviv (from QALIA) (RW)

Royal Wings (RW)
08:30 Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)
13:30 Gaza (from Marka Airport) (RW)
20:30 Aqaba (from QALIA) (RW)
21:00 Tel Aviv (from QALIA) (RW)

Royal Wings (RW)
08:30 Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)
13:30 Gaza (from Marka Airport) (RW)
20:30 Aqaba (from QALIA) (RW)
21:00 Tel Aviv (from QALIA) (RW)

Royal Wings (RW)
08:30 Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)
13:30 Gaza (from Marka Airport) (RW)
20:30 Aqaba (from QALIA) (RW)
21:00 Tel Aviv (from QALIA) (RW)

JMA presse
protect right

By Suha Al-Ayeh

Jordan

JMA

the

health

and on

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

the

for Tehran

c's death

The men in orange: Overlooked, forgotten and abused yet vital to Amman

There are many trash con-

JMA presses for changes in law to protect rights of doctors/patients

By Suha Ma'ayeh

AMMAN — The Jordan Medical Association (JMA) is working hard to protect the rights of physicians being tried on charges of medical malpractice and patients suffering from possible health care errors, officials said on Sunday.

A committee, formed by the JMA in June, is trying to end "rash measures" taken by the prosecutor generals against such physicians, including holding them in custody for two weeks and banning them from practising throughout the trial period which often takes years.

Up to 30 doctors are charged with medical malpractice each year, and the majority of them end up cleared by courts, JMA officials said.

Likewise, many victims of health care errors often complain they have given up on the legal process and on receiving fair compensation.

JMA Chairman Basem Dajani is campaigning hard to end "rash measures" against doctors charged with committing medical mistakes.

"It takes a great effort to release these doctors on bail, and sometimes this is impossible as it depends on the whim of the prosecutor," said Dajani, 56, a U.S.-educated

internist, allergist immunologist.

The JMA's eight-member commission, formed in June, is seeking to regulate litigation in order to secure the rights of patients claiming to be victims of medical malpractice as well as ensuring that doctors accused of wrongdoing get a fair trial.

The committee, which includes senior lawyers, physicians from the army-run Royal Medical Services, the JMA, and the Health Ministry, is pressing for amendments to the medical association law and other related legislation.

"We are demanding that legal measures, such as banning doctors from practising or refusing to grant them bail once they are in custody should not be taken unless there are sufficient valid proofs against physicians," said Mo'men Hadidi, 45, the committee's rapporteur.

"Until now, there is no clear mechanism on how to deal with medical malpractice, although there are several laws that regulate the practice of medicine in the Kingdom," explained Hadidi.

He was referring to the Penal Code, the Jordan Medical Council temporary law, the JMA law and the Jordanian medical constitution law.

Medical malpractice such as the performance of illegal

abortions, the illicit prescribing of regulated drugs, carelessness and practising under the influence of alcohol are offences that require immediate punitive measures, Hadidi said.

"But unfortunately, the prosecutor generals tend to take rash measures against doctors when patients file any complaint, regardless of how serious it is," he added.

"The JMA approached the Health Ministry, the Justice Ministry and the attorney general to proceed in a more civilised fashion in such cases," said Dajani. "But so far, our efforts have failed."

The Ministry of Health orders that doctors charged with malpractice cease practising until the court issues its ruling on their case.

Dajani said the committee underscored the need to have separate courts dealing with medical malpractice when the late King Hussein visited the professional associations early last year.

Dajani said the JMA general assembly approved several articles to amend the medical association law in line with recommendations put by the committee.

"Now these articles and other amendments to the association law" will have to go through constitutional channels before they take effect.

Brotherhood blasts call for confederation

By Francesca Ciriaci

AMMAN — The Muslim Brotherhood on Sunday blasted as "a lethal blow to the Palestinian cause" a recent call by Palestinian President Yasser Arafat for a confederation with Jordan.

"The Muslim Brotherhood believes that suggesting such a confederation indicates that the Palestinian [National] Authority has reached a deadlock and is trying to find a way out of the embarrassment of not [being able] to achieve a Palestinian state in a form satisfactory to the Palestinian people," the powerful opposition group said in a statement.

The Brotherhood accused the PNA of promoting "Zionist designs" by offering Israel an option that would relieve it from having to implement the agreements it signed and allow it to "trade the peace process for peanuts."

Arafat surprised many with an announcement on Feb. 12 that he was interested in forging a confederation with Jordan.

"We want [His Majesty

King Abdullah] to know that the Palestine National Council has agreed to a confederation with Jordan, but that is up to him," Arafat told a meeting of his Fatah movement.

Jordan moved swiftly to reiterate its full support for the establishment of a Palestinian state on Palestinian national soil.

"When this happens, all options will be open to discuss different forms of relationships," Foreign Minister Abdul Ilah Khatib told the Jordan Times then.

Analysts here said Arafat's statement on a confederation with Jordan could be part of preparations for an announcement that the declaration of independence he had repeatedly threatened to issue on May 4, will be postponed.

"The Muslim Brotherhood rejects this confederation project which it considers very dangerous for Palestinians and Jordanians alike," the statement said.

"We call on decision-makers in Jordan, in the Arab and Muslim world to reject this project and to stand united against the Zionist invasion," it added.

NCP denies reports of disintegration

By Francesca Ciriaci

AMMAN — Senior members of the National Constitutional Party (NCP) yesterday denied reports that their group was about to disintegrate, but party sources acknowledged ideological differences within the leadership and a mounting financial crisis.

Awad Khalidi, a member in the delegation to the 1992 Madrid peace conference and one of 27 NCP executive council members, dismissed local press accounts that party leaders had failed to convene in regular meetings for the past two months and that a semi-official meeting on Saturday came to blows.

"This is not true. We will read and study such reports," Khalidi, a former ambassador, said in a telephone interview on Sunday.

Born only two-and-a-half years ago from the merger of nine centrist parties, the NCP was initially considered the extension of the regime on Jordan's relatively new political party scene.

Analysts then said the combination of financial resources, flowing from business circles and affluent segments of society, as well as the political expertise and influence of its higher cadres of former officials and tribal leaders, would

make the NCP a success story. But waves of hundreds of resignations — all triggered by prominent defections, starting with the NCP's vice-president, the late Akif Fayed — have weakened the party ever since its official launch, in May 1996.

Brusque resignation letters have denounced undemocratic practices within the party, expressed frustration at the party's failure to embody more modern and liberal policies, and even exposed personal feuds.

The November 1997 general elections dealt another blow to the NCP, which could only win two seats in the 80-member Lower House.

Since the latest prominent resignation — that of Agriculture Minister Mijhem Khreisha, a few weeks ago — writers have increasingly dwelled on the precarious health of the party.

Some reports this week said the party was living its last days and its death would be announced soon.

"The problems of the NCP are tribalism and lack of clear policies," said one of the former ministers who resigned from the party.

"Many were disappointed when it became clear that it was a tribal, not a political, party," he said, asking not to

be named in order not to "personalise the issue."

"But the problem is also ideological, since the party has not shown unity in the policies it intends to advocate."

In the first weeks in the life of the NCP, its leaders were divided on the issue of the one-person, one-vote system, with those of liberal and leftist background asking for amendments to the elections law, while others, from a more conservative background, supported it.

More recently, talks on an improbable alliance with the Democratic Party of the Left for electoral amendments allocating a percentage of parliamentary seats to political parties left many NCP members confused or perplexed.

Alarm bells are also ringing from inside the NCP ranks. With annual registration fees ranging from JD5 for 3,000 file and rank members to JD60 for the higher cadres, the NCP is suffering from great financial difficulties.

"We estimated that we need at least JD150,000 a year to run the party properly," NCP spokesperson Khalid Nassar said in a recent interview with the Jordan Times.

Even though the party turns to its supporters for funding from time to time, "that is still not enough," Nassar said.

Police question man in crime of honour

By Rana Hussein

AMMAN — Police are questioning a 17-year-old male who last week choked his sister to death in Ramtha for suspected immoral behaviour, according to official sources.

The victim, Suhair M., 24, was killed at around midnight last Sunday. Her brother, a minor, turned himself in to police saying he had committed a "crime of honour," one source said.

Another source told the Jordan Times yesterday that the

brother had heard that his sister was involved in an "immoral relationship," and urged by his relatives he plotted to kill her.

Just after midnight on Feb. 16, the victim arrived at the home of her grandmother, where she had been living since the death of her father 15 years ago, to find her teenage brother waiting for her, the source said.

"When she entered the house, the two started arguing, then the 17-year-old punched his sister in the face, pinned her to the floor and strangled her with his belt," the source, who refused to

be named, said.

The source said a forensic examination of the victim reveal no evidence that the woman had engaged in sexual intercourse.

According to other sources, when the victim's family learned of the medical examination, they placed a white flag on her grave, to denote her innocence.

Under Jordanian law, minors who commit murders are placed at a juvenile centre, where they are taught a trade and continue their education.

Discount toy shops aim to reach more children

By Munther Murjan

AMMAN — Close out toy shops are spreading in Amman in a bid to meet the needs of a large section of Jordanians with limited financial resources.

"The existing toy shops in the Kingdom are generally overpriced," said Firas Sharabati, General Manager of American Close Out Toys Shop in Abdali. "Our shop is intended to give people a chance to get good quality toys for a relatively affordable price."

The toys are imported mainly from the U.S. after the end of each financial season.

The close out concept works on the basis that companies have agreements with merchants to buy surplus stock at the end of each financial season for a reduced price, explained Sharabati. The only condition is that the products should be sold by the

kilo in accordance with a grade system, "although this will not be the case here in Jordan where the toys will be sold at a fixed price of JD8," Sharabati added.

However, at JD8, the price still remains out of the reach of many. "I can hardly feed [my children], I wouldn't buy my children toys for JD8 a kilo," said Majada Abu Rumayleh, mother of five.

The average number of children in a Jordanian family is four and the per capita of a Jordanian is approximately JD100.

Normally, prices of toys range between 250 fils to a phenomenal JD800 said Issam Naber, General Manager of Adel Naber Toys Co. "Most of our toys are imported from Europe and the U.S. and some from Asian countries such as Taiwan," he said.

According to Naber, toys from Asia are generally cheaper than their American counterparts because of their quality, but

American toys are also more expensive because of customs. "If it wasn't for the high customs, anybody could get a good toy for JD20 instead of JD60 or 70," Naber said.

Mohammad Mbaideen from the Tax and Customs Department said that total custom imposed on toys is only 10 per cent. The only exemptions are for toys imported for mosques, churches, orphanages, and other charities. However, countered Naber, customs should distinguish between educational and other types of toys, and, he added, even if the current level of customs is aimed at encouraging locally-made products, lowering customs would help improve the quality of Jordanian toys as a result of the sharper competition. "We will gladly pay for locally-made toys and stop importing foreign products when the quality is competitive," he said.

JEIA prepares for visit to PNA

JEIA prepares for visit to PNA

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Jordanian Exporters and Importers Association (JEIA) has started its final preparations for a six-day visit to the Palestinian National Authority in order to strengthen economic cooperation and boost the two sides' trade exchange. Association Director General Halim Abu Rahmeah said the delegation, which will leave on March 5, will include a number of Jordanian exporters and investors representing several industrial sectors here.

Two-year aviation programme on offer soon

AMMAN (Petra) — Balqa Applied University and Holland's Maastricht Institute of Management on Sunday signed a cooperation agreement to offer a two-year aviation management masters programme at the Queen Noor Technical Faculty for Civil Aviation. The programme will accept 30 students with university degrees, and a TOEFL certificate. Students, who will attend lectures eight days every three months, will be required to submit a graduation proposal and attend a two-week course at the Dutch institute. The faculty and the institute are to set up the programme's regulations and requirements. University President Khaled Touqan and Institute President Mohammad Sameh Namki signed the agreement in the presence of a number of Jordanian and Dutch officials.

Mamsar meets Saudi delegation for talks on delinquents

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Social Development Mohammad Kheir Mamsar and Secretary General Farouq Nagawai on Sunday met with a Saudi delegation representing the ministries of labour, social affairs and the interior and discussed with them the ministry's programmes and plans to take care of juvenile delinquents as well as means of rehabilitating them.

Upper House discusses drought

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament's agricultural committee held a meeting under the chairmanship of Marwan Hmoud with the attendance of Minister of Agriculture Mijhem Khreisha and Minister of Interior Nayef Qadi at which they discussed the drought that has affected the Kingdom recently. Hmoud said that the committee stressed the need for supporting the farmers who were affected by drought.

Ajlouni opens medical workshop

NORTHERN SHUNEH (Petra) — Health Minister Nayef Ajlouni on Sunday opened a two-day workshop on medical education in Al Mansharia area, aiming at promoting medical care and management. Ajlouni inspected Mu'ath Hospital and was briefed on the state of medical services and facilities provided to residents.

Lower House presses government to disclose findings into hijacking

By Tareq Ayyoub

AMMAN — Lower House deputies on Sunday pressed the government to disclose results of investigations into last Wednesday's hijacking of a prisoner van in which two policemen were killed.

Mohammad Daifallah and Mahmoud Farahed were killed when Mohammad Jaghabeen and Abdullah Suleiman, two prisoners who were being transported back to Swaga Prison, overpowering them in the police van, grabbed one of their guns and killed them.

During the Parliament session, Interior Minister Nayef Qadi told deputies that a seven-calibre gun was found at the scene of the hijacking, confirming earlier reports that a second gun, other than the one forced from the police guards in the van, was used in the incident. Seven calibre fire arms are not standard issue of the Public Security

Department.

During the shoot-out with police forces called to the scene of the hijacking, one of the two prisoners was killed and the other was injured and later hospitalised at the King Hussein Medical Centre.

The investigation committee looking into the incident is made up of senior officials from the Public Security and Intelligence Departments.

"This crime has raised several doubts about the state of domestic security... and whether we should review our security policy," Sidqi Shabatat, a deputy from the southern governorate of Tafila, were the two policemen come from, said during Parliament's ordinary session.

Shabatat questioned whether the security personnel involved in the transfer of the two prisoners, from the court in Amman, where they were being tried on 12 counts of murder, back to Swaga Prison, were following standard

procedures.

Deputy Abdullah Alkaleh said that the administration of the security agencies in the country is "being tested at this moment, and the repeated killings of policemen have caused concern among the population."

Alkaleh, also from Tafila, asked the ministers present in the House chamber why the police reinforcements took three hours to bring the hijacking to an end.

Prime Minister Fayed Tarawneh said that officials investigating the case will determine whether there was any, shortcoming in following procedures by the security officials.

Tarawneh urged lawmakers against jumping to conclusions, adding that "if the investigation proves that there was a shortcoming, we will show no leniency, and those responsible will be punished, regardless of who they are."

The investigation is expected to take several days.

Six-day first aid workshop begins

AMMAN (Petra) — Delegates from 17 nations Sunday began a six-day regional workshop on first aid, focusing on training personnel in the delivery of immediate medical attention.

In a letter to the workshop participants, HRH Princess Sarvath, honorary chairperson of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS), said the workshop was evidence of the participating nations' determination to upgrade humanitarian services.

In the letter, read to the gathering by JNRCS President Mohammad Hadid, Princess Sarvath said the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies conduct humanitarian services throughout the world to assist vic-

tims of natural disasters and conflicts. She stressed that these organisations' efforts know no borders or boundaries.

The life-long efforts of the late King Hussein to promote and encourage noble deeds, particularly the provision of humanitarian services to those in need anywhere, Princess Sarvath said, will be remembered by the coming generations.

In his address to the participants, Hadid said Jordan has adopted a plan to deal with emergencies and disasters, noting that the JNRCS has a key role to play in this respect and is involved in training people in first aid services as well as securing accommodation, food and medicine for victims of conflicts and disasters.

He said the JNRCS, serves as a liaison between Jordan and non-governmental organisations in channeling assistance to disaster victims.

The JNRCS provides training in humanitarian services including first aid to the country's schools and institutions and seeks to ensure that first aid service is available to every household.

The workshop will deal with the improvement of first aid services and the role of personnel providing this immediate medical assistance.

Participants to the workshop, organised by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, have come from the Near East and North Africa as well as France, Switzerland and Sweden.

The men in orange: Overlooked, forgotten and abused yet vital to Amman

By Susan Resheq

AMMAN — Amman, home to nearly two million people, is among the region's cleanest capitals, thanks to an army of 3,000 sanitation workers manning most streets to pick up litter from cars, pedestrians and households.

Their difficult task has been complicated by the lack of implementation of articles in the Traffic Law which sets a fine of between JD10 to JD50 for littering from a vehicle.

"Most people depend on us to clean the country," said Ali Ahmad, clad in the standard issue orange uniform as he removed litter from outside a private girls school in an affluent part of the capital.

"People are proud of the country's level of cleanliness," added his colleague, Khalil Salem. "But do they ask themselves who is responsible for the country's clean streets?" he asked.

"There are many trash con-

tainers in every street, but often people ignore them and keep littering streets because they know there are workers who clean after them."

The Greater Amman Municipality (GAM), whose services cover 40 per cent of the country's 4.6 million population, spends around JD10 million a year to maintain the city's tidiness.

Sanitation workers' salaries account for JD6 million and the rest goes to pay the costs of garbage transport and maintenance of garbage dumps.

Mayor Nidal Hadid promised after taking over the reins of the GAM in August that he would work hard with the Traffic Department to enforce the no-littering articles that apply to motorists.

But street littering has continued unabated because of lack of popular cooperation and tough law enforcement.

"We are spearheading great efforts to keep the country clean, but we still need peo-

ple's cooperation," said Nayef Madad, head of the Sanitation Department at the GAM's capital branch.

"And articles of the law have to be enforced to prevent people from littering the streets."

Armed with 292 sanitation workers, his department maintains the cleanliness of a vast area between the GAM headquarters in the heart of downtown to the densely-populated nearby areas of Mahata, Hadadeh and Jofeh.

He also took pride in the GAM's "successful experiment" launched several years ago to gradually help replace Egyptian sanitation workers with Jordanians after giving them a minimum monthly salary of JD114 in addition to health insurance, social security benefits and a JD3 in yearly increase.

The move is part of wider efforts to combat unemployment among Jordanians — officially estimated at 16 per cent and independently at up

to 27 per cent — and to reduce hundreds of thousands of foreign labourers, many working illegally in low-paid jobs shunned by Jordanians.

"Thanks to our drive to recruit Jordanians, now around 180 of the 292 sanitation workers garbage collectors are Jordanians," said Madad. "The rest are Egyptians."

Sanitation workers operate on an eight-hour shift basis, with Egyptians working on a daily basis for a minimum of JD3.56 a day in addition to social security benefits.

Atiah Saad, a Jordanian, said he was forced to turn to garbage collecting as a job to help his 10-member family eke out a precarious existence on the JD117 he earns every month.

"If you can help me find another job, I would leave now," he told the Jordan Times. "But for now, I will go on working for hours to clean streets around schools," added

Saad, who joined the GAM in 1996.

Several sanitation workers complained that people in general looked down on them.

"Many people do not respect us because of our job and many of them talk to us in an impolite manner," lamented a 58-year-old Egyptian.

"Once I saw a man throwing a piece of paper on the street so I asked him to pick it up and place it in a container," he recalled. "But he totally ignored me and started shouting and cursing."

Sami Hasan, 25, who holds a diploma in business administration, said he took a job as a sanitation worker because he could find no office job.

But he said he was hardly making ends meet.

"I am responsible for six members of my family and I have to pay JD50 in monthly rent," he complained. "In addition, everything is getting more and more expensive." He said he had to leave his



It's a dirty job, but...

fiancée after a two-year engagement because he could not cover the expected costs of marriage.

"I had to leave her because I could not ask her to wait for me any longer," Hasan added. "I am still hoping to get mar-

ried but I do not know when my financial condition will improve, that is if it will ever improve."

Indian, Pakistani premiers to sign two agreements

LAHORE, Pakistan (AFP) — Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif will sign two agreements at the end of their historic weekend summit here Sunday, Pakistani officials said.

One of the documents will be a "Lahore declaration" regarding the summit itself, while the second will involve confidence-building measures aimed at easing bilateral tensions, the officials said.

No further details were immediately available.

According to Pakistani Information Minister Mushahid Hussain, the two premiers held a 20-minute meeting here Sunday, followed by discussions between their respective delegations that lasted 90 minutes.

Vajpayee and Sharif then held a further one-hour meeting without their aides. After the signing, the premiers will address a joint press conference at around 5:30 p.m. (1230 GMT).

The summit talks were "very positive in giving us a better understanding of each others' perspective," Hussain told AFP.

"(Vajpayee's) visit has also created a conducive atmosphere for peace, security and stability in south Asia, which will have an

impact on the future direction of Pakistan-India ties," he said.

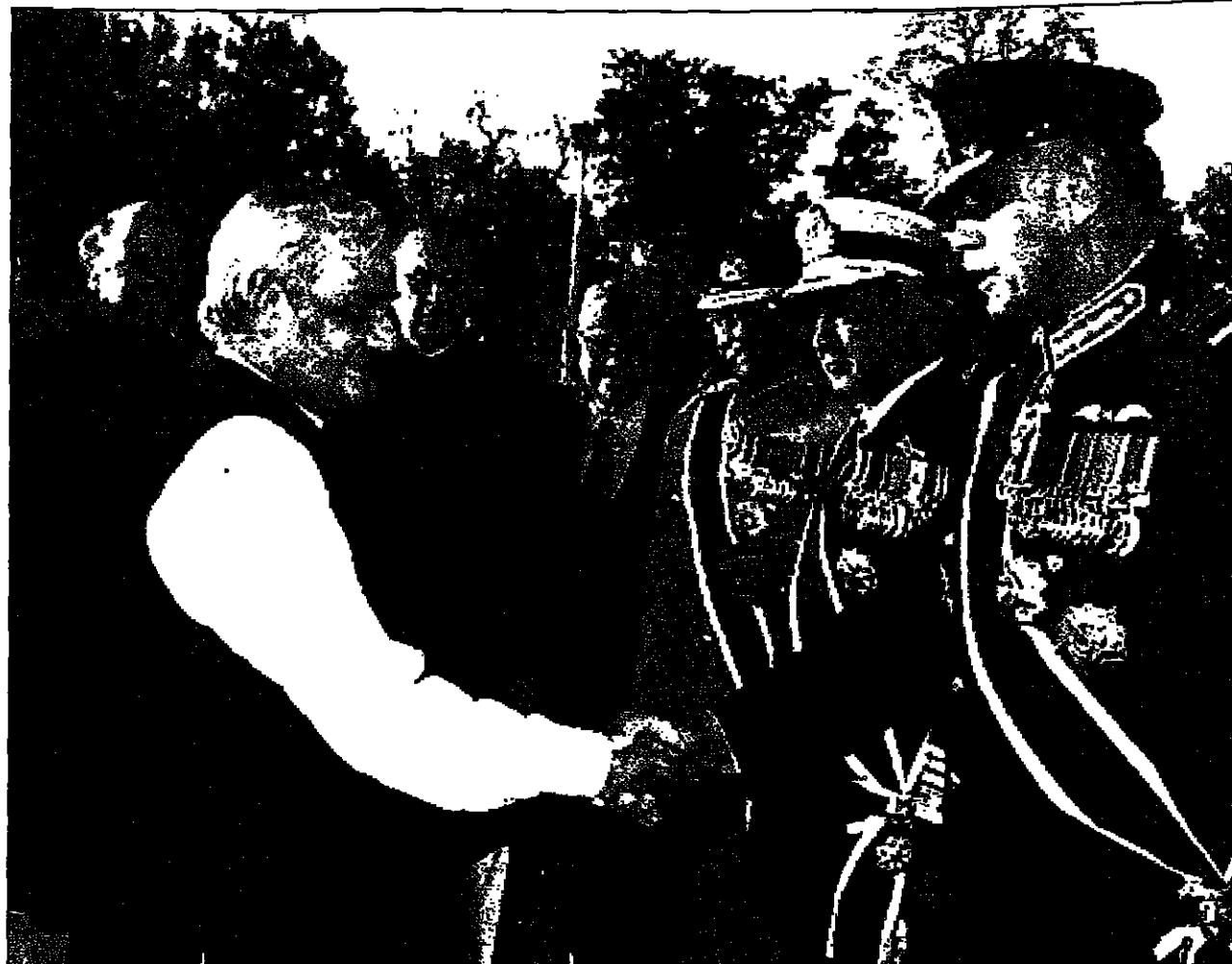
Despite the enthusiasm engendered by Vajpayee's historic visit to Pakistan — the first by an Indian premier for 10 years — analysts said it was unlikely the agreements would contain any substantial breakthrough.

However, the two sides will need to signal some degree of progress if only to satisfy the public expectations raised by the two premiers' passionate appeals Saturday for both countries to renounce violence and build a more pragmatic and harmonious relationship.

Some analysts had predicted an agreement on specific confidence-building measures to reduce tensions created by the two countries' rival nuclear tests last year.

The crucial issue of Kashmir — cause of two of the three Indo-Pakistan wars fought since 1947 — was also discussed, but the entrenched positions of both sides make any agreement beyond a commitment to further discussions extremely unlikely.

Vajpayee's 10-member team included Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh and the chief minister of Indian Punjab, Parkash Singh Badal. The Pakistani dele-



Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee (left) shakes hands with Pakistan Air Force chief Pervez Musharraf (right) at the Governor's house in Lahore as Pakistan Premier Nawaz Sharif (left) looks on. The prime ministers of India and Pakistan put aside ceremony and symbolism Sunday to open talks aimed at defusing tensions which mounted after the arch-rivals conducted nuclear tests last year (Reuters photo)

gation included Foreign Minister Sartaj Aziz and Information Minister Hussain.

Lahore witnessed a second day of violent clashes Sunday between the police and Islamic fundamentalists opposed to Vajpayee's visit.

Police fired tear gas and baton-charged a mass gathering of several thousand activists from the main Islamic party, Jamaat-i-Islami, arresting up to 100

people, including some senior party leaders.

Violent protests Saturday left one policeman dead and at least 100 people injured. Police arrested as many as 300 protesters.

Thousands of police and paramilitary troops have been deployed in Lahore for the duration of the summit.

Earlier in the day, Vajpayee visited the Minar-i-Pakistan, a 196-foot tower

symbolising the founding of the country at the partition of the Indian subcontinent after the British pulled out in 1947.

"I have said it before and I say it again. A stable, secure and prosperous Pakistan is in India's interest," Vajpayee wrote in the visitors' book.

"I wish to assure the people of Pakistan my country's deep desire for lasting peace and friendship."

Vajpayee, who had arrived Saturday on the inaugural run of a cross-border bus service, also told waiting reporters that "all issues" would be up for discussion during the day's negotiations.

At an official banquet Saturday evening in Lahore's historic Red Fort, Vajpayee and Sharif both urged a new spirit of peaceful reconciliation after five decades of bitter animosity.

Indian opposition leader flays Hindu nationalists at rally

LUCKNOW, India (AFP) — Indian opposition leader Sonia Gandhi Sunday accused the country's ruling Hindu nationalists of fomenting Hindu sectarianism to cling on to power.

The Congress party president told a 100,000-strong cheering crowd gathered at a park in this nationalist heartland that Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's coalition "believes in the politics of religion."

"They are only indulging in the politics of caste and religion to stay in power," the Italian-born said in a 15-minute speech in Hindi.

It was Gandhi's first public rally in the Hindu nationalist-ruled state of Uttar Pradesh since becoming president of her 114-year-old party in April last year.

Gandhi, who is seeking

to rebuild the Congress in a bid to bring it back to power, made no mention of Vajpayee's historic trip Saturday to Pakistan.

She concentrated instead on running down the fragile multi-party coalition government that has been wracked by infighting since it came to power 11 months ago.

"They have no time left for the problems of the masses and the development of the country," she said. "The only want to remain in office by exploiting emotive issues."

She said a majority of Indians were "fed up" with the Hindu nationalist-led coalition and desperately seeking an alternate and stable government.

Uttar Pradesh, whose capital is Lucknow, is a

sprawling and mainly farming state of some 140 million people that has given the country eight of its 12 prime ministers.

Political wisdom has it that any party seeking to govern India must also control Uttar Pradesh. The state accounts for 85 of parliament's 545 seats.

The Congress, India's oldest party, held sway over Uttar Pradesh for about 40 years until it was voted out in 1989. In the past decade, it has been reduced as an also-ran in the state.

Gandhi, widow of assassinated Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, took to politics a year ago.

The famous Nehru-Gandhi family belongs to Uttar Pradesh.

Bangladesh to hold local vote despite strike

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh will go ahead with municipal voting this week despite fears that an opposition general strike will lead to violence in the streets, election officials said Sunday.

They said preparations were complete for 137 pourasavas (municipal councils) to be elected in voting spread over Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

"We believe the voting will take place without much obstruction. Tight security will be in place during the polls," said a commission official who declined to be named.

Opposition parties have called a 72-hour national strike against the polls, saying they want chief election commissioner Abu Hena replaced by someone without pro-government bias.

The ruling Awami League says it will not let opposition activists take control of the streets and may send in army and paramilitary troops to help police protect polling stations.

Six people were killed and hundreds injured during an opposition stoppage which paralysed the country from Feb. 9 to 11.

The opposition alliance

includes the Bangladesh nationalist party headed by former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, the Jatiya Party, of former President Hossain Mohammad Ershad and the country's biggest Islamic party Jamaat-e-Islami.

It is backed by Islami Oikya Jote (unity council) and several smaller parties which call Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government "autocratic, repressive and inefficient."

The Bangladesh constitution does not allow local elections to be fought with party symbols but all parties treat them as a warm up for parliamentary polls due in 2001.

Voting will be conducted in 54 municipalities Tuesday, in 33 Wednesday and in 50 Thursday.

Bangladesh has 182 municipalities but elections are not taking place in 45 councils for legal and administrative reasons, a commission official said without giving details.

Reporters visiting towns outside the capital Dhaka said voters were generally upbeat about the coming polls and were little worried about the proposed strike.

"Voting is our fundamental right and we cannot refrain from exercising it for any reasons," said Kafiluddin Ahmed of Munshiganj district near Dhaka.

He said: "The strikes are intended to serve purposes of different political groups but hardly do any good to the common people."

"But for exercising our franchise freely we need a fool-proof security," he added.

BNP chief Khaleda Zia urged her followers Saturday to "resist and don't participate in the elections until Abu Hena is gone and an atmosphere of free and fair elections is created."

Hasine described the strike as an attempt to "steal people's rights and cripple the economy," and urged Bangladeshis not to respond to opposition calls.

"Maintain normalcy and elect your local leadership for a speedy development of your areas," the prime minister said at a party meeting.

Some 3.2 million voters, including 1.43 million women, are expected to vote, commission officials said.

N. Zealand, Australia united over E. Timor's future

QUEENSTOWN, New Zealand (AFP) — The New Zealand and Australian governments have agreed to consult each other on future actions to help East Timor as it approaches independence from Indonesia, nzpa reported Sunday.

It was one of the issues discussed at the weekend in the south island tourist resort of queenstown during talks between New Zealand Prime Minister Jenny Shipley and Australian counterpart John Howard.

"I think we have a very similar view on East Timor," Howard told reporters.

New Zealand would look to Australia for a lead, should the need for aid or peacekeeping arise in the future, Shipley said.

"New Zealanders feel very strongly

about this and would want to assist in an appropriate way," she said.

"We would be looking to Australia to give us advice on where they think we could most usefully assist."

Both prime ministers said it was premature to talk about the possibility of aid or peacekeeping as such action would not be needed if there was a peaceful transition to independence.

The two governments are concerned that if change takes place too fast, East Timor could be destabilised.

"We want to encourage the Indonesians and the people of East Timor to reach an understanding and an outcome that is going to provide the maximum economic and social stability," Howard said.

"It's premature to be talking about peacekeeping forces. We, of course, are arguing that the best outcome in the short term is a phased movement towards independence, preferably a period of autonomy within Indonesia."

Last year, New Zealand, Australia and other Pacific governments worked together to broker a peace accord which ended a 10-year conflict between warring factions on Bougainville, Papua New Guinea.

Peace-keeping forces from New Zealand, Australia and other Pacific island nations took part in truce monitoring on the island in months leading up to final agreement which was signed at Lincoln near Christchurch in January 1998.

Bangladesh remembers its language heroes

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Thousands of Bangladeshis paid tributes Sunday to five university students whose killing in police firing 47 years ago fuelled a fierce independence struggle against Pakistani rulers.

The students wanted Bangla, the mother tongue of Bangladeshis, as one of the state languages when their country was the eastern wing of Pakistan. The then-Pakistani rulers instead declared Urdu, spoken by Pakistanis, as the only state language.

The killings sowed the seeds of Bangladesh's independence from Pakistan after nine months of bloody war in 1971, according to Bangladeshi historians.

Bangladeshis look forward to the Language

Martyr Day, when thousands of mourners walk barefoot to a downtown monument and place wreaths of marigolds and roses.

This year the celebrations have been overshadowed by a three-day nationwide general strike called by the country's mainstream opposition to coincide with municipal polls scheduled Tuesday through Thursday.

The strike that halts traffic, shuts down schools and businesses, will mean eight days of vacation, including four weekends.

"I wish we could work on this national day too," said Abdur Rouf, a Dhaka businessman as he placed a wreath of marigold at the monument. Sunday is one of the five weekdays for Bangladeshis who have two weekends Friday and

Saturday. The shutdown has been called for the second time this month by former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to demand the firing of Bangladesh's top election official.

Zia, head of the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party, has accused chief election commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena of supporting Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's ruling party.

The latest strike will raise the days of vacation to 26 days in the first two months of the year, including seven days of anti-government strikes.

The government says a day of strike costs Bangladesh, a land of 120 million people, \$68 million in lost production and exports.

NEWS IN BRIEF

China opposes NATO strikes against Yugoslavia

BEIJING (R) — China said Sunday it was opposed to military strikes against Yugoslavia, as Kosovo peace talks ran into extra time and nato warplanes were poised for action. "China opposes any military action against Yugoslavia, a sovereign state," the official Xinhua news agency quoted Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue as saying. "China has consistently advocated a peaceful solution to the issue on the basis of respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Yugoslavia and ensuring the lawful interests of all ethnic groups in the Kosovo region," she was quoted as saying. Some 430 nato warplanes — including 260 U.S. jets — were on standby for possible bombing missions against Yugoslavia amid a standoff at the peace talks in Rambouillet, France. The talks, brokered by six nations, seek to end an 11-month conflict in the Serbian province of Kosovo between Yugoslav forces and separatist ethnic Albanian guerrillas. U.S. officials, bristling with irritation that a noon Saturday deadline had failed to produce results, were sceptical that Belgrade would buckle under by the time a new ultimatum expired Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. (1400 GMT). China has blasted the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation several times in recent months over its threats to intervene militarily in the Kosovo conflict. Beijing has also opposed nato expansion plans, painting the Western military alliance as a relic of the cold war that is grasping for a new role as a "global cop". China has advocated a multipolar world power structure that would boost its clout.

N. Korea rebuffs South's advances

TOKYO (R) — North Korea Sunday criticised South Korean President Kim Dae-jung's "sunshine policy" of increasing cultural, business and governmental exchanges with the reclusive state. The spokesman for North Korea's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification for the Fatherland said that recent proposals being floated by South Korea aimed at solving outstanding issues, "in its content, cannot be welcomed by anyone," according to an official Korean Central News Agency report monitored in Tokyo. "Worse still, they talked about 'opening' of the North. This is a sinister act of impairing even our dignity," the spokesman was reported as saying. Earlier this month, North and South Korea seemed to be heading closer to government-level talks. On Feb. 3, North Korea offered talks with South Korea but attached conditions — including ending military cooperation with the United States — that Seoul has rejected in the past. The rival Koreas remain technically at war because their 1950-53 conflict ended in a truce instead of with a peace agreement. The North Korean spokesman said that if South Korean authorities were truly willing to solve present issues, "they should take the resolute decision to honestly accept a recent proposal of a joint meeting of the government, political parties and organisations in the North," Kena reported. South Korea's Kim started his "sunshine policy" about a year ago and it was aimed at decreasing tensions along the cold war's last frontier. Tensions grew in the past few months after a series of North Korean intrusions into South Korean waters and the launch of a North Korean rocket that hurtled over Japan last August.

Late Nigerian opposition leader's daughter wins seat in parliament

LAGOS (AFP) — The eldest daughter of late Nigerian opposition leader Moshood Abiola has won a seat in the country's new parliament, the newspaper this day reported Sunday. Lola Abiola-Edewor, 38, had 85 per cent of the votes for the Lagos Apap seat in the house of representatives, with the count almost completed, the paper said. Abiola-Edewor is the only member of the Abiola family to have gone into politics since her father died last July while in detention. He was detained in 1994 after declaring himself Nigeria's rightful president on the basis of a 1993 election annulled by the military. His death from a heart attack sparked rioting across his native southwest Nigeria.

15 crewmen dead after ship mutiny

PORT LOUIS (R) — Fifteen Chinese crewmen on board a Taiwan-registered fishing vessel died in a mutiny in the Indian Ocean, Mauritius police said Sunday. They said they had arrested the Taiwanese Captain, Keng Tai Yang, and the nine other survivors when the ship, the Ching Ching 12, docked in Port Louis Saturday. The captain told police that members of the crew mutinied on Feb. 16 while the Ching Ching 12 was fishing 1,000 miles northeast of Mauritius. He said he had shot two of the mutineers and the others had jumped overboard. Police said the surviving crew members included five Taiwanese, two Filipinos and three Chinese. One Chinese crewman was admitted to hospital with injuries. The mutiny appeared to have been sparked by poor living conditions, police said. The ship had sailed from Port Louis last August on a fishing expedition.

South African man carrying heroin arrested in Thailand

BANGKOK (AFP) — Thai customs officials said Sunday they had arrested a South African man for allegedly trying to smuggle 1.15 kilograms of heroin out of the country. Officials said Ugab Paulinus, 30, was arrested at Bangkok's domestic airport and charged with possession with intent to sell. They said 75 small packets of heroin were found in the man's clothing as he tried to board a plane to the southern city of Hat Yai, bordering Malaysia. Paulinus allegedly confessed that he was preparing to swallow the packets before entering Malaysia, from where he intended to fly to Indonesia. An official said the heroin would be worth about two million baht (\$54,000) outside Thailand.

Truck pileup in southern India; 8 killed, 94 injured

NEW DELHI (AP) — High speed open motorbikes collided against each other in highway pileup in southern India killing eight wedding party guests and wounding 94 others, a domestic news agency reported. At least 24 people were in serious condition in a government hospital in Hyderabad, capital of the southern state of Andhra Pradesh after the accident late Saturday which involved three trucks, United News of India reported. Two of the motorbikes were crammed with relatives and friends of a groom whose wedding was to take place late in the night, the news agency said. It was not known immediately if the groom survived the accident in Chandrayanapalli village, about 1,125 kilometres south of India's capital New Delhi. Few other details were immediately available.

Russian out Japan

RUSSIA — Russian President Boris Yeltsin Sunday said that Russia would not accept a Japanese proposal to hold talks with North Korea on the Korean peninsula. Yeltsin said that Russia would not accept a Japanese proposal to hold talks with North Korea on the Korean peninsula. Yeltsin said that Russia would not accept a Japanese proposal to hold talks with North Korea on the Korean peninsula.

Communist for impe

COMMUNIST — A Communist Party member of the Russian Duma Sunday called for the impeachment of President Boris Yeltsin. The member said that Yeltsin had lost the confidence of the Russian people and should be removed from office.

Kashmir mil

KASHMIR — Indian military forces Sunday arrested a group of Kashmiri militants in the northern state of Jammu and Kashmir. The militants were accused of planning to launch an attack on Indian forces in the region.

Indonesian s

INDONESIA — Scores of Indonesian students held a vigil at a university here Sunday to mark the 10th anniversary of the 1998 student demonstrations in Jakarta. The students called for the resignation of President Abdurrahman Wahid and the end of the New Order regime.



Kosovo Liberation Army guerrillas take positions in the outskirts of the village of Studencane. The village came under Serb attack Saturday and KLA guerrillas took new positions Sunday to defend the village from a new attack some 60-km south west of Pristina. Negotiations in Rambouillet continued beyond the deadline for an accord at Kosovo peace talks Saturday in a last-ditch bid to rest an agreement (Reuters photo)

Russian foreign minister rules out Japan peace treaty by 2000

TOKYO (AFP) — Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov Sunday ruled out any chance of signing a peace treaty with Japan by 2000, the two nations' self-imposed deadline. "It is not possible," Ivanov was quoted as saying by sources close to a meeting between the foreign minister and his Japanese counterpart Masahiko Komura in Tokyo. A Japanese foreign ministry official told reporters the two ministers "energetically discussed" proposals on how to resolve a long-standing territorial dispute and sign a peace treaty by 2000.

During a stopover on Sakhalin Saturday, Ivanov reiterated Russian sovereignty over the islands. "Any solution which would amount to a refusal of Russian sovereignty over the southern Kuril Islands is unacceptable," Ivanov said. The solution must be "mutually acceptable, without prejudice to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Russian Federation," he said. At an informal Siberian summit in November 1997, Russian President Boris Yeltsin and then Japanese Premier Ryutaro Hashimoto agreed to reach an accord and sign a peace treaty by 2000. But aside from good intentions, little progress has been reported from the closed-door negotiations. Japanese Foreign Minister

Masahiko Komura told news conference here Friday that "Japan would like to continue the interchange over the four islands. However, if you ask me whether (the territorial dispute) will progress further, very difficult problems are lying ahead," he said. The islands, lying south of Sakhalin and north of Japan's Hokkaido Island, were occupied by the Soviet army in the final days of World War II, and have embittered Russo-Japanese relations since. Ivanov, whose trip is also to prepare for a visit by President Boris Yeltsin expected to take place by mid-1999, is to meet Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi Monday. During talks with Kremlin officials on the sidelines of the funeral of King Hussein last

week, Obuchi suggested Yeltsin visit Japan in April, but a question mark hangs over the Russian leader's health. The prospect of a speedy disbursement of \$800 million, held out by Tokyo during a visit by Obuchi last November to Moscow, appeared to have evaporated along with Tokyo's hopes of a breakthrough on the Kurils. But the Japanese ambassador to Russia said in an interview published here Sunday that Tokyo has no intention of mixing financial support for Moscow with the territorial dispute. Takehiro Togou told the Mainichi Shimbun that Japan was withholding the disbursement of \$800 million to Russia only because talks remained stalled between the International Monetary Fund and Moscow.

Back from the brink, world powers resume search for Kosovo peace deal

RAMBOUILLET, France (AFP) — Having pulled back from the brink, the world powers Sunday resumed their efforts to wring a peace accord on the embattled Yugoslav province of Kosovo from the rival Serbs and ethnic Albanians. The Contact Group, comprising Britain, France, Italy, Germany, Russia and the United States, Saturday gave the warring sides another three days to reach agreement after running up against Serb objections to a proposed nato peacekeeping force. Citing "very substantial progress," ministers of the Contact Group set a new deadline of 3:00 p.m. (1400 GMT) Tuesday for an accord that would end nearly one year of fighting in the majority Albanian-populated province. U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who returned to the Chateau de Rambouillet Sunday where the talks have been taking place since Feb. 6, said she expected the negotiations to be "arduous". "Lots of work is to be done," Albright said. "I

came here today to do my part." But Serb President Milan Milutinovic, a key ally of Yugoslav strongman Slobodan Milosevic who holds the ultimate power of decision, cast doubt on any agreement being reached by the new deadline. "We need three more days for a political accord, but for the military accord we (need) much more time," he said, arguing that the United States was seeking to occupy Serbia by imposing a foreign troop presence to implement the peace. "Whether these troops are under the auspices of nato, the United Nations or the osce makes no difference," he said. "In three days we'll see what happens." Albright and her French and British counterparts left no doubt Saturday that it was the Serb side, refusing to make any concessions on the military aspects of an accord, that was holding things up. "Belgrade has a lion's share of responsibility for the difficulties we experienced today," said Albright. "They did not want to engage at all on the security part of the agreement and for

us, it is a non-starter," she told a new conference following a day of intense negotiations at the chateau in this town outside Paris. U.S. officials speaking on condition of anonymity said Washington was hoping to wring enough concessions from the ethnic Albanians by Tuesday to put Belgrade in the wrong and provide a reason for attacking Serb military targets. The senior diplomats said the Serbs were so fixed on their refusal to allow North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) forces into Kosovo to police a peace accord that the long-threatened air strikes might be needed to make them yield. A key argument would be an unequivocal "yes" from the leaders of Kosovo's ethnic Albanian majority to the peace plan, which is offering them broad autonomy for an interim three-year period while preserving Yugoslavia's territorial integrity. But Russia, a traditional ally of the Serbs, has consistently opposed the use of force in seeking a resolution to the conflict and says the international community

cannot impose foreign troops on the Serb province against Belgrade's will. "It is necessary that Yugoslavia, as a sovereign country, consider this issue and we will support it whatever its decision," said Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Avdeyev, who represented Moscow at the Contact Group meeting which drew back from the brink and extended the deadline. Avdeyev also warned against resorting to nato air strikes, saying that the threat was unacceptable and illegal. Military annexes to the peace accord drafted by the contact group provide for the deployment of a nato-led force of between 28,000 and 30,000 troops to separate the warring sides. Fighting in the province has claimed more than 2,000 lives over the past year, culminating last month in the massacre of 45 ethnic Albanians at the village of Racak, an event that galvanised international outrage over the violence and helped precipitate the three-week-old talks in Rambouillet.

Cook warns Kosovo Albanians

LONDON (R) — Kosovo's ethnic Albanians have been warned that unless they sign up to a peace deal for their troubled province, nato is unlikely to strike at their Serb foes, Britain said Sunday. Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said, however, that he was "hopeful" that the Kosovo Albanians would agree to the peace deal on offer as talks in Rambouillet in France went into extra time after failing to meet their deadline. The big powers have now given the Yugoslav government and the Kosovo

Albanians until Tuesday afternoon to agree a peace deal. Hundreds of nato warplanes are on alert to hit Yugoslav targets if Belgrade is held responsible for blocking an accord. Cook told BBC television's "Breakfast with Frost" programme that the fact that Belgrade had accepted the political aspects of the deal, envisaging substantial autonomy for Kosovo's ethnic Albanian majority, was "quite a remarkable breakthrough". But negotiators were still

a long way from persuading the Serbs to reverse their refusal to accept an international military presence in Kosovo to police a peace accord, Cook said. The Kosovo Albanians must now also accept the proposed agreement without the promise of the independence they seek, he added. "We are certainly saying to the Kosovo Albanians that if you don't sign up to these texts, it's extremely difficult to see how nato could then take action against Belgrade. For instance, at the

moment we have on the Belgrade side a government that is accepting the constitutional settlement for a self-governing Kosovo, but we don't have a Kosovo side that is doing so. In that context, air strikes against Belgrade are not going to help." Cook said that while any military force sent to police a Kosovo settlement must have a NATO command structure, he hoped that Russia and some of the former Communist states of Eastern Europe might participate, as had been the case in Bosnia.

Communist leader repeats call for impeachment of Yeltsin

MOSCOW (AP) — Gennady Zyuganov, the leader of the Russian Communist Party, Sunday said he would urge parliament at its next session to adopt a motion to impeach President Boris Yeltsin. Zyuganov, addressing a rally marking Defender of the Fatherland Day, said an impeachment commission in the state Duma, parliament's lower house, had collected enough evidence to confirm "Yeltsin's criminal activity." Yeltsin and the Communists have been bitter enemies for

years. Zyuganov has recently heated up his rhetoric, particularly after rumours emerged that Yeltsin had needed medical help when he travelled to Jordan for King Hussein's funeral. "Now after seven years of democratic mind games, everyone realises that an incompetent person is in power who is unable to be responsible for his words and actions," Zyuganov told the crowd of 10,000 gathered to mark the military holiday, which falls Tuesday. "Everyone who yesterday

believed in their sweet promises now sees poverty and bankruptcy knocking at their door," he said, according to Russian television. The Communists have been at odds with Yeltsin throughout his tenure, but the effort to impeach him is seen as a long shot. A two-thirds majority of the Duma is needed to push through each of the impeachment charges. The motion must then be approved by the constitutional and supreme courts and the upper chamber of parliament, the federation council.

The charges are that Yeltsin instigated the 1991 Soviet collapse; used force against hard-line lawmakers in 1993; launched the botched, 1994-96 war in Chechnya; brought the nation's military to ruin; and committed genocide against the Russian people. The commission for impeachment submitted its findings to the Duma last week, and legislators could vote on the motion as soon as March 15. Communist deputy Viktor Ilyukhin said afterwards,

Britain and Spain seek to smooth over Gibraltar row

LUXEMBOURG (AFP) — Britain and Spain's foreign ministers met here Sunday for talks aimed at preventing recent tensions over Gibraltar spiralling out of control. The meeting between Britain's Robin Cook and his Spanish counterpart Abel Matutes was scheduled in a bid to resolve a dispute over fishing rights off the British colony that has escalated into a major diplomatic row. The dispute was sparked last month when some Spanish trawlers were arrested and charged with illegally fishing in Gibraltar's waters. Spain maintains that the arrest of the fishermen and the seizure of their boat breached the terms of an understanding reached between Cook and Matutes last October. Madrid has retaliated by imposing restrictive controls on its border with Gibraltar, forcing residents of the territory, many of whom work in Spain, to endure delays of up to six hours at the border. Madrid has also warned that it could stop recognising drivers' licenses issued by Gibraltar and ban planes travelling to and from the

colony from its airspace, although it has not yet acted on either of these threats. Spain has also sought to broaden the dispute by stepping up its claims that Gibraltar is a haven for money laundering, smuggling and tax evasion. Arriving for the talks, Matutes reiterated Madrid's view that Gibraltar was a "parasitical" economy which thrived at the expense of Spain's economic interests. Spain was doing its best to ensure that Gibraltar complied with European legislation. "I hope that the U.K.

government will take its responsibilities," he said. Cook reiterated Britain's position that there will be no change in the sovereignty of Gibraltar without the consent of the territory's citizens and he attacked Spain's border tactics as counterproductive. "You will not persuade them to change their minds by blockading them, by putting them under siege," he said. Cook said he would be seeking guarantees from Matutes that the situation at the border would be returned to normal.

government will take its responsibilities," he said. Cook reiterated Britain's position that there will be no change in the sovereignty of Gibraltar without the consent of the territory's citizens and he attacked Spain's border tactics as counterproductive. "You will not persuade them to change their minds by blockading them, by putting them under siege," he said. Cook said he would be seeking guarantees from Matutes that the situation at the border would be returned to normal.

Kashmir militant group issues Islamic dress order

SRINAGAR, India (AFP) — A Muslim militant group Sunday warned residents of the disputed territory of Kashmir not to wear Western-style clothes, saying it was not permitted by Islam. The Harkat-ul-Mujahideen said it would "initiate action" against those violating the dress code and wearing jeans and jackets. "Our group will be compelled to initiate action against the defiant elements," it said in a statement in the Kashmir state summer capital of Srinagar.

The group also threatened cable television operators and sought to enforce a ban on Western broadcasts. "These people should not consider their business above their religion ... nude and salacious films and songs are shown on television sets," it said. "Such programmes are aired with a view to keep the Muslim youth away from the Islamic values ... it is causing serious damage to Islamic culture." On Feb. 15, three cable televi-

sion operators were shot and wounded by Muslim guerrillas, who want only news and current affairs programmes to be broadcast. Similar attacks took place on liquor stores and beauty parlours last month. Kashmir Valley has some 300 cable operators, many of whom do not relay programmes considered "un-Islamic." Western television channels and Pakistani TV are popular among Muslims in Kashmir.

Video shops, banned and blasted by Muslim militants in 1990, are resurfacing across Srinagar and other towns, much to the annoyance of the Muslim separatist groups. Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, has been wracked since 1989 by a secessionist drive which has left more than 25,000 people dead. The state is claimed by both India and Pakistan and has been the cause of two of the three wars between the south Asian rivals.

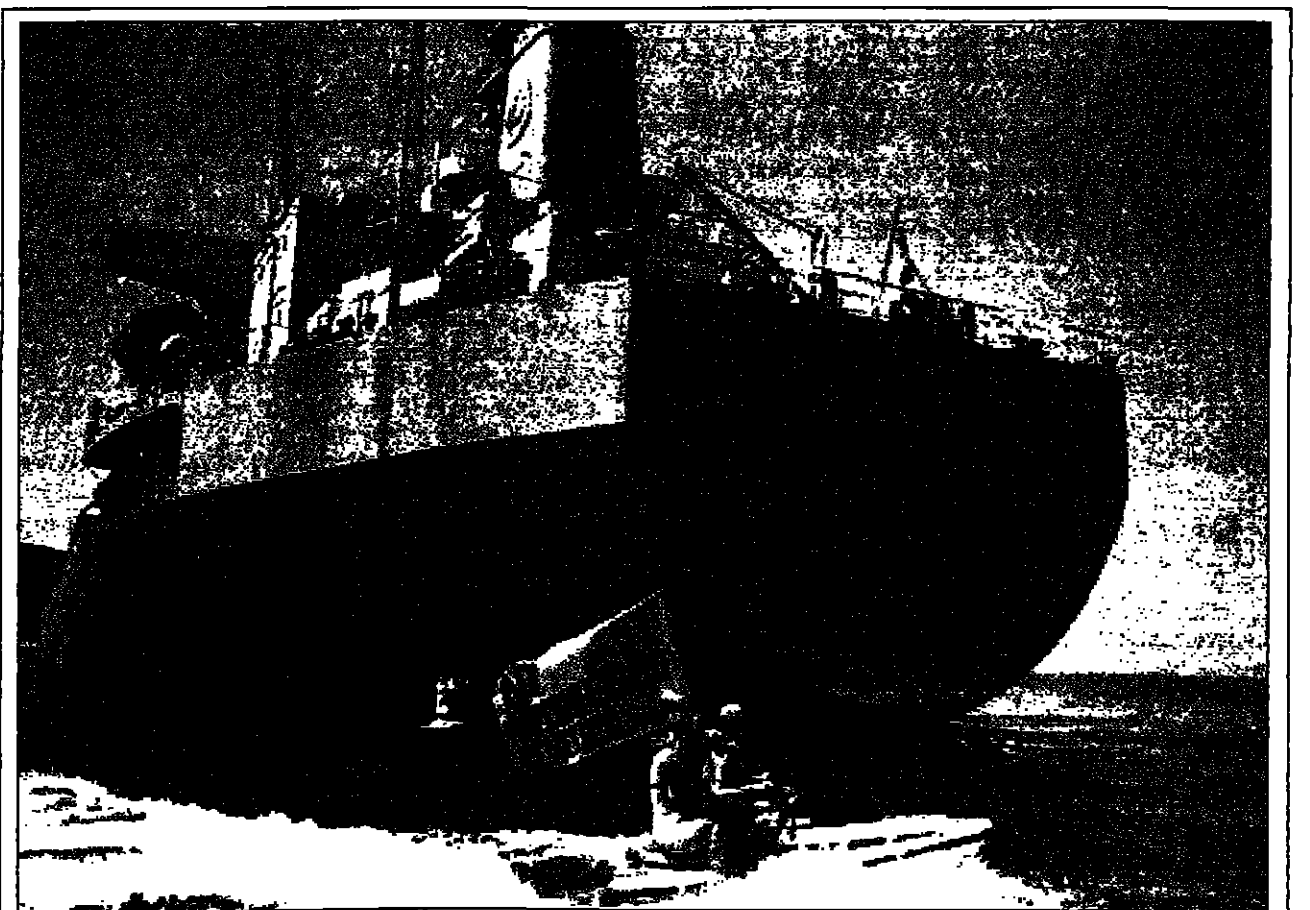
Indonesian students hold vigil in memory of killings

JAKARTA (AFP) — Scores of Indonesian students held a vigil at a university here Sunday to mark 100 days after the violent shooting of student demonstrators last year. "This moral movement will become the basis for continued student actions in the streets to unveil the truth of the Semanggi tragedy," a student, Delfi, from Kertanegara University told some 150 students at Atma Jaya Catholic University in downtown south Jakarta. The Indonesian military opened

fire on hundreds of protesting students on Nov. 13 near the Semanggi traffic flyover and the adjacent Atma Jaya campus that left seven students dead. Fourteen more people were killed during the protest. The memorial event, sponsored by the students for Reform and Democracy Forum (FAMRED), which unites students from dozens of Jakarta universities, was attended by some 50 pedicab drivers. "This is part of the political realisation efforts for the public," Delfi said of the invitation to the drivers,

"The efforts to unveil the Semanggi tragedy cannot wait for the political will of General Wiranto as the military commander," the student activist added. The demand for a more transparent investigation into the shooting was part of the student struggle "towards a more democratic Indonesia," Delfi said. Saturday some 50 famed students attempted to walk from the Gambir railway station in central Jakarta in separate groups to the nearby military police headquarters but were blocked by soldiers

and police. The military police, who are investigating the incident, have so far said they have been unable to identify who shot the students. The student movement in February of 1998 began campaigning for the exit of former President Suharto, who stepped down in May after 32 years in power. Since May, the students have pushed for Suharto to be brought to trial for his alleged crimes in office and for the military to give up its role in political life.



Greenpeace protesters pass by the cargo ship 'Abydos' moored in the Caribbean port of Santa Marta. Greenpeace claim the ship is carrying genetically modified maize from the U.S. (Reuters photo)

**Robbe
collect**

Sheila Brain
President, YWCA
Great Britain

Robbed ancient cemeteries at Ghor es-Safi include collection of inscribed gravestones in Greek and Aramaic

THE LARGE-SCALE, continuing tomb robbing and pilfering of antiquities in the Southern Ghors region is one of the more disturbing aspects of Jordan's otherwise impressive antiquities sector. The problem is so vast, here and elsewhere in the country, that official authorities, non-governmental organisations, and concerned private citizens alike seem unable to do anything about it — despite occasional arrests of culprits or expressions of a determined will to stop this embarrassing scourge. Now, an intriguing new approach to the problem has been attempted in the Ghor es-Safi region by a pioneering archaeologist and some innovative officials in the Department of Antiquities. Unable to stop the robbing of vast ancient cemeteries there, Dr. Konstantinos Politis of the British Museum and colleagues from the Jordanian Department of Antiquities (DoA), including local inspector Khalil Hamdan, have spent the past two years systematically trying to achieve three simultaneous goals: a) to document what they can from the looted ancient sites, b) to collect as many objects as possible for the Department, and c) to interact with those whom they suspect of doing the robbing and collecting as much information as possible about the sites and the materials being stolen. A related problem that caused Politis and the DoA to try this approach was the continuing rapid expansion of agricultural lands and the construction of new roads and buildings, both of which have destroyed or threatened known antiquities sites.

"We discovered that a great deal could be learned from the local people who had been finding ancient remains for decades during their routine agricultural activities, and we decided to tap this source of information that had not been sufficiently explored before," Politis said in a recent interview. The results of this rather unorthodox approach have been rather exciting, and positive in many ways. The past two years have seen the identification of new antiquities sites, and new antiquities within known sites have also been documented. A unique collection of inscribed tombstones from the 4th-to-6th centuries AD has been retrieved and is now safely in the hands of the DoA.

The medieval Islamic town and surviving stone water reservoir (birkeh) at the area in Safi called 'Unayz, west of Wadi Hasa, have been further documented and studied. Using aerial photos and ground surveying, Politis' team found that the ancient settlement extended further westwards than had been previously thought. They also identified parts of an ancient road that crossed the Wadi Hasa at a nearby ford, and collected some plain ceramic tiles from a robbed out tomb (the tiles once probably formed a star-shaped arrangement).

Massive cemeteries

On the south side of the wadi, the team studied large Early Bronze Age I and Byzantine era cemeteries that had been discovered and pilfered by tomb robbers.

These cemeteries in the Naqa' area had been partially excavated in 1995 by a joint team from the DoA and Mu'ta University. Further examination of the area, also using aerial photos, prompted Politis to estimate that "tens of thousands of burials at Naqa' represent one of the largest Early Bronze Age I cemeteries ever found in the Levant." There seems to have been some Egyptian influence on the local population, to judge by the types of grave goods found.

The Early Bronze Age I (EBI) period in Jordan/Palestine (around 3300-3000 BC) is one of the most fascinating ancient eras, for at this time human beings started the process of developing proper walled towns, or inventing 'urbanism'.

The EB towns and cemeteries of the Southern Ghors are among the most numerous and important of any in the Middle East, and retain significant information on the first urban stirrings of humankind. To lose them to unchecked theft would be to forfeit one of humankind's most valuable repositories of information on our first urban stirrings. The EB settlement at Safi has not been identified, but Politis' work suggests that it may be buried beneath alluvial deposits and agricultural fields to the west. Byzantine tombs were discovered in the Naqa' area in far smaller numbers than the EBI tombs, but they represent a diversified population that is fascinating in itself.



The birkeh at Ghor es-Safi (photo courtesy of Konstantinos Politis)

Islamic sugar mill town

The major standing remains at Safi are the remains of a sugar mill called Tawaheen es-Sukkar in Arabic ("the sugar mills"), dating from the 12th-to-15th centuries AD. Long known but never systematically excavated or even documented, the sugar mills were examined by Politis' team and proved to be a sugar cane processing and refining plant fed by two water channels, enclosed within an external mudbrick wall. The tomb robbers accidentally uncovered well preserved underground water channels and stone-paved surfaces, which have now been documented and protected.

A fascinating aspect of the study of this site is the history of its name, which dates back to the biblical story of Lot and his daughters who survived in a cave there after God destroyed all the people of nearby Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19). According to Politis, Islamic tradition gives the name of Lot's younger daughter as 'Zughar', a name that seems to have stuck to the place. The Bible says that Lot escaped to a town in that area called 'Bela' (that is, Zo'ar), perhaps in the early 2nd Millennium BC. The 14th century BC Amarna letters mention a place called 'Suhru.' In the Classical period the town there was called 'Segor,' labelled on the 6th century AD Mad-

aba mosaic map as "Balak, also Segor, now Zoora. The Jewish Talmud refers to it as "Zoar the city of palms." In medieval Islamic times it was called "Zughar," and the Crusaders knew it as "Segor." The large-scale sugar industry in this region in medieval Islamic times may have given the name of the place to the name of the product: "sukkar" in Arabic, which became "sugar" in English, "sucré" in French and so on. Perhaps at Safi town there is fascinating etymological as well as archaeological history to unravel, Politis said.

The sugar-producing Byzantine and middle Islamic town of Zughar was probably located near the sugar mills, in the adjacent area of agricultural fields to the north-west known as Khirbet Sheikh 'Isa. This is also the best candidate for the site of ancient biblical Zoar (if such a biblical town ever existed).

Bulldozers working in the area have recently exposed remains of an ancient city wall built of well-hewn ashlar blocks, Politis said, and one bulldozer exposed the remains of what may have been the entrance to a Byzantine church.

Rescued cultural remains

The materials that have been rescued during this work at Safi include a wide range of objects spanning thousands of years, most of which have

been illegally excavated and offered for sale on local and global markets. The Early Bronze Age I period was represented by pottery, ostrich eggs, alabaster vessels, beads and mace heads, while from the Middle Bronze Age II (1800-1500 BC) came pottery, metal objects, and beads. Byzantine items included funerary stelae (stone grave markers), pottery, glass, coins, copper items, kohl sticks, amulets, plaster mirror plaques, and gold earrings and beads. The middle Islamic period produced primarily pottery.

The most important collection of ancient artefacts from these ongoing cemetery looting sprees is over 300 funerary stelae from the 4th-to-6th centuries AD, of which about 90 per cent were inscribed in Greek and the rest in an Aramaic script. Many more have been sold and sent outside the country, but the collection that has been saved is unparalleled for the information it is providing on the Byzantine era population in the Southern Ghors.

For example, most of the Greek Christian names were based on indigenous (Nabataean/Arab) names, though written in the Greek language, which was the common and dominant language of the Byzantine period in this region. Among the Christians buried at Safi were one man from Petra and another from Feinan, and a Jewish person from Galilee. Some of the deceased were bishops, deacons and other church officials, and one Jewish man buried there was the head of a synagogue, but it is not known if he lived in Safi or was visiting from elsewhere.

The tombstone inscriptions gave the name of the deceased and the precise date of death, often with the phrases "he died with a good name and good reputation," and the even more touching "be courageous, no one is immortal."

One stone gave the date of 18 May of the year 363 AD: this has at long last solved the mystery of the exact date of the famous earthquake that shattered many towns in this region in the year 363 AD. Most grave stones also give the age of the deceased. Decorative elements on the tomb stones include birds, crosses, and snakes, and traces of red, green, yellow and white paint have been found



By Rami G. Khouri

on some of them. The tomb stones did not stand upright, as is the custom today, but were said to have laid flat on the tomb, according to the reports from the tomb robbers themselves.

The few Aramaic-inscribed tombstones, unlike all the others, were dated from the fall of the Jewish second temple at Jerusalem, and thus probably represent burials of a small group of Jewish refugees, traders, or immigrants who died in the Safi region. Historical texts from the 1st and 2nd centuries AD mention Jewish refugees fleeing political upheavals in Roman-dominated Palestine, and some of them may have sought refuge in Safi, where they died and were buried, Politis said. Papyrus scrolls from the mid-2nd century AD attest to Nabataean-Jewish co-existence in the Dead Sea region, and thus it would not be unusual to find Jewish families living in Nabataean towns, or Nabataean families living in Jewish areas.

"This is one of the biggest collections of Early Byzantine tombstones from the entire Middle East, and it is also noteworthy for the textual information, dating, quality, and the demographic information it provides," Politis said.

He hopes to properly excavate what remains of this cemetery one day, and to learn more about the Early Bronze and Byzantine communities that lived and died there. He also feels that the known middle Islamic antiquities from sugar-exporting Zughar town must be urgently protected and properly studied, and made more easily accessible and presentable to visitors. A local museum has been proposed to house some of the important collections of objects coming out of the Southern Ghors and the Safi area in particular.

The work has been funded by the Department of Antiquities, the British Museum, and private donors.

Study questions use of growth hormones in short but healthy kids

By Brigitte Greenberg
Associated Press

GIVING GROWTH hormones to short but otherwise healthy children adds only a modest 5 centimetres to their height on average, a study found, leading some experts to question whether up to 10 years of daily injections are worth the cost and the trouble.

The 10-year study in Thursday's New England journal of medicine is the first long-term look at the controversial practice of administering growth hormones for cosmetic reasons, a use that has not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Dr. Raymond I. Hintz and colleagues at Stanford University showed that about 80 per cent of the children studied reached heights greater than would have been expected otherwise.

However, the results in individual children varied, and 20 per cent saw no height increase.

What's more, few of the children reached the target height set by doctors

based on the size of the child's parents.

Hintz called the results "somewhat disappointing." "The question is: do we treat, understanding that it's not a 100 per cent guarantee and that it's years of treatment, or do we let nature take its course?" he said. "This is going to be a difficult judgement. I think different parents are going to give different answers." The American academy of Paediatrics recommends use of growth hormones only in children who have a deficiency of the hormones; a rare chromosomal abnormality called Turner Syndrome that stunts growth in girls; or a chronic kidney disorder that retards growth.

The academy warns that the hormones should not be widely used for cosmetic reasons because they could lead to tumours, diabetes, hip problems or difficulties with self-esteem. This study found no side effects.

Even though the FDA has not approved the drugs for use in short but otherwise healthy children, it is not illegal to do so. Roughly 30,000 children are treated with growth hormones in the

'Sometimes people judge others... based on their stature'

United States yearly, and about 20 per cent of them don't fit into one of the categories the FDA deems as medically necessary.

One year of growth hormone therapy can cost \$10,000 to \$25,000.

The new study was paid for in part by Genentech Inc. of South San Francisco, California, which holds 67 per cent of the U.S. Market for growth hormones. Eli Lilly and Co. and Pharmacia and Upjohn also produce growth hormones.

The researchers examined 121 children who were considered short for no known medical reason and were treated with growth hormones for two to 10 years. Among 80 children who received treat-

ment and who have reached adulthood, both boys and girls were an average of about 5 centimetres taller than would have been expected otherwise.

In an accompanying editorial, Dr. Sharon E. Oberfield of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University called the findings inconclusive but was sceptical of hormone use on healthy children.

"Is short stature a disease? If not, should the most severe short stature be considered a disability warranting treatment?" Oberfield wrote.

Hintz defended the use of the hormones in some cases where a person is "severely short," meaning below 1.22 metres for a woman or 1.52 metres for a man.

"When you have trouble interacting with people or in handling kitchen cabinets or diving, then it becomes a significant problem," he said. "Like a lot of 'isms,' such as racism or ageism, there is heightism, which can be subtle.

Sometimes people judge others, even unconsciously, based on their stature."

Exercise can severely damage your health

Agence France Presse

GOOD NEWS for couch potatoes: contrary to popular wisdom, exercise may be harmful if done in excess, fitness experts warn.

Too much exercise may reduce the body's ability to fight off diseases ranging from the common cold to more serious illnesses like heart disease and cancer, experts said.

Much of the evidence is anecdotal, but a study of some 2,300 runners who participated in the 1987 Los Angeles Marathon found one out of seven got sick a week after the race, a rate nearly six times that of runners who trained but did not run the marathon.

The study also found that runners who trained more than 100 kilometres a week doubled their odds for illness compared to those who ran less than 32 kilometres a week.

"Excessive exercise can backfire on you," says Ken Cooper, the fitness guru who coined the term "aerobics."

Pointing to elite athletes who have been struck with life-threatening diseases like skater Scott Hamilton, Cooper argues that "there appears to be a point of diminishing returns where your immunity is adversely affected and you break down your resistance to infection and disease."

How much is too much "varies according to the fitness level of the individual," says Cooper, a physician who heads the Cooper Institute for Aerobic Research in Dallas, Texas. Heavy training may suppress white blood cells that form the body's "first line of defence" against illnesses, adds David Nieman, a professor of health and exercise science at Appalachian State University.

The good news is that a moderate level of exercise may in fact strengthen the body's immune system.

Studies show that people who walk for up to 45 minutes a day could reduce their risk of catching a cold or sore throat by half.

Navy sound-deadening technology may have many civilian uses

By Bill Kaczor
Associated Press

LOW-FREQUENCY noise such as the whump-whomp of helicopter rotor blades can be more than just annoying. Research indicates it can raise blood pressure and hasten fatigue.

U.S. Navy scientists assigned to develop ear protectors for helicopter crews found no material on the market that would adequately block the sound, so they invented a new technology.

Their patented solution shows so much promise that commercial interests are lining up to use it in appliances, automobiles, airplanes, spacecraft, ships and buildings as well as for ear cups, said Capt. Bob Hain, science and technology director at the Naval Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory.

"It's a technology as opposed to a material," said Gerry Thomas, head

of acoustics for the lab at Pensacola Naval Air Station. "So far every material that we've attempted to apply the technology to, we've been successful." That includes epoxy resins, silicon gels, polyurethane foam, plastics and silicon- and carbon-based rubbers, said Thomas, who has a PhD in acoustics from the University of Florida.

Tests show, depending on the application, the technology can improve sound absorption by 50 per cent to 1,000 per cent. A 90.6-centimetre thickness can block as much sound as a foot of concrete.

Mold-Ex Rubber of nearby Milton is licensed to use the process in certain products and over the past two years sold Ford Motor Co. more than 1 million exhaust recirculation hoses that reduce engine noise. Production, however, has discontinued because Ford made a design change that solved the problem another way, said Bruce Guy, Mold-Ex vice

president and technical director.

Later this year, he said, the company, a subsidiary of Norfolk, Virginia-based Southland Technologies Inc., will begin using the formula in rubber and plastic protectors as well as foam insulation for boat builders.

Thomas and co-inventor Bill Cushman, who worked on the project on a contract basis, relied on basic physics for their sound solution.

"We knew that laminates of different materials were better than homogeneous materials in blocking lower frequencies," Thomas said. Sound waves lose energy at the point where dissimilar materials meet, but such layering would be impractical for ear cups.

"We wondered if it would work using very small particles that were very dissimilar since progression of sound requires molecular collisions," Thomas said.

The answer was yes, but it took 41 attempts before they arrived at a correct balance of high- and low-impedance particles. "The formula is very specific," Thomas said. "If you are off by a couple parts per hundred, you lose the effect." The technology works across the frequency spectrum but is particularly prized for its low-frequency performance because nothing else has been effective in that range, Guy said.

Moulded products such as the ear protectors represent only a small fraction of potential uses so the lab now is focused on perfecting materials in sheet and spray-on forms.

"That's the big enchilada," Thomas said. "It's just been this past summer that we've had a sufficient number of breakthroughs because the science involved with large sheets is very different than the science involved with small surface areas and airborne sound." The

lab also has approached Florida State and Florida A and M universities for help in applying the technology to high-strength composites such as those used to make aircraft. A chemical company wants to try it with fibres, including kevlar, a main component in helmets, Thomas said.

Since initial research in 1993-95, Cushman's contract has expired but he is working independently to advance the concept in what he termed a friendly competition with the navy lab.

He has patented the use of discarded tires, frozen and broken into crumbs, as a low-cost raw material and a more expensive approach combining various technologies.

Cushman, who has a doctorate in sensory psychology from the University of Maryland, also has joined with Intelligent Automation Inc. of Rockville, Maryland, to develop headsets for the navy that can be

used in noisy environments. They are in the first months of a two-year contract to combine soundproof ear cups with microphones that digitally cancel background noise.

The navy lab has spent nearly \$2 million developing its technology, but if sheet materials prove successful that investment will be returned within months in manufacturing royalties, Thomas said.

The military will reap other benefits just from better hearing protectors that can be worn around jet engines, big guns and other noisy environments.

The navy spent \$37.5 million in one year — 1995 — on hearing disabilities and the department of veterans affairs paid out \$3.68 billion from 1968 through 1995, Hain said.

Noise "not only affects someone's hearing," he said. "If you can't hear what's going on, it affects your ability to accomplish your mission."

World's richest countries focus on Third World debt relief

BONN (AFP) — The Group of Seven (G-7) wealthy nations are refocusing their efforts on reducing Third World debt, giving themselves until June to find common ground and concrete proposals to help the world's poorest countries.

Finance ministers from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United States meeting in Bonn on Saturday said they hoped to reach agreement on improved debt relief in time for a June summit of G-7 heads of state in Cologne.

They said they hoped to make "maximum progress" in the coming year.

A total of 41 countries have been identified as heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC), under a 1996 initiative undertaken by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

According to a rough estimate by French Finance Minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the HIPC countries' public debt totals some \$11

billion, representing the manageable figure of about 0.6 per thousand of the gross domestic product of developed countries.

The G-7 commitment comes as the public puts pressure on governments to reduce the debt burden of the world's poorest countries.

Sports stars such as boxing legend Mohammed Ali, artists such as Bono, singer of Irish rockers U2, as well as Christian and secular groups have all joined together under a British organisation, Jubilee 2000, to campaign for a one-off cancellation of all unpayable Third World debts to mark the new Millennium.

This is the first large effort by the public since the live aid and band aid concerts of the 1980s to support famine relief in Africa.

For now, the G-7 has only sketched an outline of a possible accord, noting that the HIPC initiative "provides the appropriate framework to address the debt problems

of these countries," but acknowledging that the HIPC needs improving.

The finance ministers stressed, however, that the world's richest countries, who have loaned the most, should not be forced to pay out a second time, thus entirely supporting the cost of debt reduction themselves.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, the host of Saturday's meeting and the upcoming Cologne one, has insisted on seeing results by the summit in June. He wants to see as many countries as possible make adjustments and see the burden of debt reduced rapidly and globally.

He has suggested that in "exceptional cases," when the approved mechanisms are insufficient, the Paris Club of creditor nations should consider entirely scrapping credits and loans.

On Saturday, Strauss-Kahn unveiled a French initiative to cancel debt interest payments for a generation, meaning 30 years, in all of the

HIPCS. France also hopes to secure some relief for countries that fall outside the HIPC bracket.

There are 41 developing countries classified as HIPCS, including 32 with a 1993 gross national product per capita of \$695 or less, together with a debts-to-exports ratio higher than 220 per cent, plus nine others that were eligible for concessional rescheduling from the Paris Club of creditor nations.

These countries were: Angola, Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Cote D'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Kenya, Laos, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome And Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Vietnam, Yemen and Zambia.

World Bank admits Asia mistakes, seeks changes

WASHINGTON (R) — The World Bank, which admits it failed to tackle problems leading to Asia's economic demise, should change the way it lends to member states, according to a policy paper from the head of the bank.

The internal document by World Bank President James Wolfensohn says the bank should take a longer-term, holistic approach to the problems facing countries, looking at the whole picture rather than at individual sectors.

"Too often in the past we have gone after the easy targets, saying that we would attack the more difficult (and often institutional) problems later on," Wolfensohn said in the paper, which was made available to Reuters. "In doing so we failed to recognise the essential complementarities."

Giving examples, Wolfensohn said it was pointless to privatise firms without also creating a competitive environment and a sound rule of law, or to build schools if there were no roads that children could use to get there.

"We know, at least from hindsight, that part of the failures in Russia were due to paying insufficient attention to the preconditions for a market economy," he said in the report. "A Proposal for a Comprehensive Development Framework."

Wolfensohn's report, to bank staff and governments, more or less coincided with the release of a deeply self-critical World Bank document which said the bank had been lulled into a false sense of security about Indonesia, then a big borrower and now one of the countries at the centre of the economic crisis.

The enthusiasm associated with rapid growth created a halo effect in country relations," said the country assistance note on Indonesia, written by the bank's independent operations evaluation department.

"The bank ... could not have predicted the timing and the severity of the crisis, but it could have been better prepared, had past successes not bred overconfidence," it added.

The bank rated its performance in Indonesia prior to the economic crisis, as well as the performance of the Indonesian government, as "marginally satisfactory."

"While the government's development strategy has

had remarkable positive results, issues of poor governance, social stress and a weak financial sector were not addressed and contributed to the depth of the crisis," it said.

"The bank's neglect of those same issues and its underestimation of risks and lack of contingency planning dampened the overall effectiveness of its assistance," the note added.

Governance is the word the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund use when they talk about high-level corruption.

"Seeking equity when government is riddled with corruption and has inefficient and untrained officials is an objective that will never be realised," Wolfensohn said.

The World Bank is contributing \$4.5 billion to the international community's \$43 billion rescue package for Indonesia and is a big player in other bail-outs.

But the World Bank, like many others, was disarmed in some of its forecasts for Indonesia and other countries.

A report released in September 1997, two months after the devaluation of the Thai baht triggered the economic crisis, said five big developing countries — Brazil, China, India, Indonesia and Russia — would emerge as key players in the world economy, creating new chances for trade and development.

"The rapid growth and integration of the big five developing and transition

economies over the next quarter century will generate important net benefits for the world economy, but also significant economic adjustments," the 1997 report said.

Brazil, Indonesia and Russia have since turned to the international financial community for tens of billions of dollars in loans. Their economies, like those of Thailand and South Korea, have plunged into recession.

"The great Asian tigers are no more," Malaysia's outspoken Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammed told a developing nations' conference in Jamaica earlier this month.

"Reduced to whimpering and begging, they are but a shadow of their former selves," he said.

Exchange Rates Sunday, 21-02-99 ACCESS 4648668

CURRENCY	UNIT	100 JORDAN DINARS	100 US DOLLARS	100 EURO	100 POUND	100 YEN	100 LIRA	100 RIAL	100 DIRHAM	100 SHEQEL	100 MANAT	100 DRAHIM	100 KUNA	100 TUGRIK	100 HONG KONG DOLLAR	100 NEW TAIWANESE DOLLAR	100 SINGAPORE DOLLAR	100 MALAYSIAN RINGGIT	100 THAI BATH	100 RUPEE	100 INDIAN RUPEE	100 PAKISTANI RUPEE	100 BANGLADESHI TAKA	100 NEPALESE RUPEE	100 SRI LANKAN RUPEE	100 BURUNDI FRANCS	100 RWANDA FRANCS	100 ZIMBABWE DOLLAR	100 BOTSWANA PULA	100 NAMIBIAN DOLLAR	100 LESOTHO LILANGENI	100 SWAZI LILANGENI	100 MALAWI KWACHA	100 ZAMBIAN KWACHA	100 TANZANIAN SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYAN SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIAN BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	100 SIERRA LEONE LIRA	100 LIBERIA DOLLAR	100 GHANA CEDI	100 IVORY COAST CFA FRANC	100 GUINEA CFA FRANC	100 SENEGAL CFA FRANC	100 MALI CFA FRANC	100 BURKINA FASO CFA FRANC	100 TOGO CFA FRANC	100 BENIN CFA FRANC	100 CAMEROON CFA FRANC	100 CONGO CFA FRANC	100 ANGOLA Kwanza	100 MOZAMBIQUE METICAL	100 ZAMBIA KWACHA	100 TANZANIA SHILLING	100 UGANDA SHILLING	100 KENYA SHILLING	100 ETHIOPIA BIRR	100 SOMALI SHILLING	
----------	------	-------------------	----------------	----------	-----------	---------	----------	----------	------------	------------	-----------	------------	----------	------------	----------------------	--------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	---------------	-----------	------------------	---------------------	----------------------	--------------------	----------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	-------------------	--------------------	------------------------	---------------------	---------------------	--------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------	---------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------------	--

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

Exemption of industrial production inputs from customs wins Cabinet's initial approval

THE COUNCIL of Ministers has given its preliminary approval to the comprehensive programme that exempts nearly 2,200 industrial production inputs from customs. The Cabinet referred to the Ministry of Finance the question of finding alternatives to compensate the treasury for the estimated JD86 million loss from the exemptions.

An informed government source said the most probable alternative to compensate the treasury is to raise the general sales tax. Such a step, if approved, would

require amending the Customs Law and presenting it to Parliament for taking a decision.

The committee which was entrusted with the issue of exempting industrial production inputs from customs has recommended to the Council of Ministers implementing the exemption over three stages ending in June.

The exemption would result in raising the competitive edge of national industries and enabling it to enter new market at competitive prices (Al Dustour).

Study says Jordan needs 193,000 housing units within five years

STUDIES INDICATE that Jordan needs 193,000 housing units between 1999 and the year 2003 and that most of the units are needed for limited income and low income groups," said Zuhair Khalifeh, general manager of the Jordan Mortgage Refinance Company. He noted that housing investments in the private sector concentrate on meeting the needs of the medium and high-income groups.

Khalifeh indicated that his company has extended five loans totalling JD14.6 million during 1998. The credits included refinancing 1,337 housing loans, he said adding that the company also issued and sold its first three-year bonds for a total of JD10 million. Moreover, the Jordan Mortgage Refinance Company succeeded in providing JD11 million to the military housing funds to enable them fulfil their objectives in granting housing loan.

The general manager said that banks responded favourably with the objec-

tives of the company by offering and executing special programmes that extend housing loans for up to 15 years. He added that banks also responded with the partnership programmes carried out by the General Corporation for Housing and Urban Development with investors from the private sector.

Khalifeh indicated that despite the high level of interest prevailing in the market at present, people were applying for the programmes. He said the company seeks to boost the participation of banks and financial institutions in granting housing loans and to finalise the documents related to dealings with the entities that operate according to the Islamic principles.

Furthermore, the company aims at intensifying its marketing activities in order to expand lending and refinancing as well as periodic floating of bonds and ensuring that investment institutions purchase these bonds and trade them at the stock exchange (Al Ra'i).

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1999

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Send notes to all the people who owe you money today. You might be surprised to find out how much you've loaned out that's never been repaid. You've got a generous heart, and you're kind of forgetful, so you're the perfect person to borrow from. And that's one of the reasons you end up broke by pay-day.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You should start off the day in a good mood — strong, forceful, dynamic, able to leap tall buildings in a single bound. Be careful about that, though, because as the day continues, your advantage weakens. Tomorrow you could actually find yourself in complete confusion. To avoid that, make solid plans while you feel decisive.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You're being pushed to do what you do best, and that's not a bad idea. But take care. As you're putting on your performance, think not only about what you're saying, but also about how you're being heard. If you disregard your audience's cherished belief, you might not get the reception you hoped for.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 22) There's paperwork or bureaucratic snafus that need to be cleaned up. Dive into that first thing, because it'll go more easily than usual. Conditions get a little more complicated as the day continues, and its probably going to be a tiring evening. Best not to plan on going out, if you can possibly avoid it.

LEO: (July 23 to August 22) The move you had planned isn't going to work, because you're being blocked. If you're cautious, you may find a way around a problem. You might not be checked after all. You still have a few tricks up your sleeve, but don't play them too quickly, and certainly don't get overconfident about a recent success.

VIRGO: (August 23 to September 22) There's room for improvement today, and you may be the person to point out where, when, why and how. You might not be the team leader. You're more likely the brains behind the operation. Today, however, you may have to speak up, or somebody could make a dreadful mistake. If you see something going wrong, holler.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 23) This day could start out with worries about money, but don't let that get you down. If you need more for something fun you have in mind, how about taking on a little more work? That's not quite as good as getting a handout, but it looks like it's more achievable. Go ahead and sign up for that overtime so you can get what you want.

SCORPIO: (October 24 to November 21) You have awesome powers, but hold back just a little longer. Do a bit more planning. Get your resources together. Figure out where you're going to get the money and how you'll pay it back. A big opportunity will come later this week, and if you spend the time now getting ready, you'll be prepared when the opportunity happens.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A day that starts out as drudgery could end up exactly the opposite. That's due to the introduction of a new sparring partner. You two can learn a lot from each other, and today is only the beginning. So if you meet somebody you find mildly irritating but rather attractive at the same time, relax. That's exactly as it should be.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) Capricorns are among the most generous people in the world, and they work harder than just about everyone to provide for the people they love. You should be proud to be a Capricorn, especially if you have to stop doing something you want to do and start doing something you have to do. That could happen today.

AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 18) There will be lots of new possibilities popping up over the next day or two — people with creative ideas that you could follow through on, people who'd like to get to know you better or engage you in philosophical dialogue. One word of caution: Stay away from the one who's after your money.

PISCES: (February 19 to March 20) Take it easy today. There's no need to rush into anything. There are all sorts of wonderful opportunities, but it looks like there are some hidden problems, too. You should proceed for the next few days as if you were sailing over coral reefs. There's a beautiful harbour and a gorgeous island you can visit, if you're careful.

Birthstone of February: Amethyst — Onyx.

A.F.M TRADE Sunday, 21-02-99

ACCESS 4646868

Company	Open	Close	Change
BANKS			
ARAB BK	220.000	219.000	-0.45%
NTL BK	1.540	1.540	0.00%
BK OF JORDAN	1.340	1.340	0.00%
INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK	1.520	1.500	-1.32%
THE HOUSING BK	2.870	2.830	-1.39%
JO. KUWAIT BK	1.690	1.680	-0.59%
JO. GULF BK	0.700	0.670	-4.29%
JO. ISLAMIC BK	1.740	1.730	-0.57%
PHILADELPHIA BK	0.540	0.540	0.00%

BANKS INDEX 286.560 POINT = -0.57%

INSURANCE			
JO. FRENCH INS	2.690	2.680	-0.37%
JO. GULF INS	1.680	1.780	+4.76%

INSURANCE INDEX 124.230 POINT = +0.36%

SERVICES			
ELECTRIC POWER	1.760	1.730	-1.70%
URBID ELECTRICITY	1.700	1.750	+2.94%
JO. INTL TRADING CENT	0.270	0.260	-3.70%
AL-RAT	7.250	7.000	-3.45%
AL-ZARGA FOR EDU	0.890	0.890	0.00%
ARAB INTL FOR INVS. & UNIFIED LAND TRANS	1.190	1.170	-1.68%

SERVICES INDEX 114.350 POINT = -0.99%

INDUSTRY			
CEMENT	3.600	3.730	+3.61%
PHOSPHATE	2.380	2.390	+0.42%
ARAB POTASH	4.130	4.100	-0.73%
PETROLEUM REFINERY	10.760	10.780	+0.19%
JO. TANNING	5.150	5.150	0.00%
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL	3.120	3.100	-0.64%
CERAMIC IND	2.350	2.320	-1.28%
JO. DAIRY	2.860	2.900	+1.40%
TOBACCO & CIGARET	1.580	1.550	-1.90%
JO. PIPES	1.120	1.120	0.00%
DAR AL DAWA	5.700	5.650	-0.88%
MIDDEL EAST COMPLEX	0.570	0.560	-1.75%
JO. STEEL	0.940	0.940	0.00%
ARAB ALUMINIUM	1.900	1.900	0.00%

INDUSTRY INDEX 96.390 POINT = +0.37%

PARALLEL			
EXPORT BK	0.920	0.920	0.00%
JO. TRADING FACILITIES	0.360	0.390	+2.63%
CENTRAL STORG	0.350	0.350	0.00%
UNION INVS. CORP	0.890	0.880	-1.12%
AL - EKAL	0.890	0.880	-1.12%
AL - SHARQ	1.060	1.050	-0.94%
MEDICAL APPLIANCES	0.460	0.460	0.00%
AL DAWLAH	0.620	0.610	-1.61%
ARAB INVESTORS	0.980	1.000	+4.17%
ARAB INTL TRADE CENTURY	0.190	0.190	0.00%
UNION TOBACCO	1.210	1.190	-1.65%
AL-RAZI	0.720	0.710	-1.39%
NITRO	4.600	4.370	-5.00%
NTL POULTRY	0.540	0.540	0.00%
NUTRI DAR	0.600	0.570	-5.00%
	0.770	0.770	0.00%

GRAND INDEX 182.5 POINT = -0.33%

Study: U.S. companies lost \$12.4b in copyright piracy last year

WASHINGTON (AFP) — U.S. companies lost an estimated \$12.4 billion in copyright piracy last year, up from \$11.7 billion in 1997, an association of copyright industries has reported.

The findings were contained in a report from the International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA) to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR).

The alliance urged the USTR to designate Israel as a "priority foreign country" for its inadequate copyright protection, a move that could expose the country to U.S. trade sanctions.

Israel's domestic markets for sound recordings, videogames and computer programmes, once promising and profitable, are being overwhelmed by piracy," the IIPA found.

It also recommended that Mexico, Macau, Italy, Russia, Kuwait, Turkey and Poland be placed on a "priority watch list" for closer scrutiny of their efforts to stamp out intel-

lectual property theft.

The USTR in the next few months is to announce its review of countries that could be hit with trade sanctions for failure to ensure intellectual property protection.

The Business Software Alliance (BSA), one of the components of the IIPA, argued that a critical step in combating piracy would be the "assurance of proper software management within government agencies worldwide."

"Governments who commit to legal software will send a strong signal to end users both within the government and in the private sector that unauthorised use and copying of software is not accepted practice," it said in a statement.

The BSA also urged that three other states, Ireland, Peru and the Czech Republic, be added to the list of "priority watch" countries.

Another member of the IIPA, the Interactive Digital Software Association (IDSA), reported that U.S. comput-

er and video game publishers lost some \$3.2 billion worldwide last year to piracy.

IDSA said the largest entertainment software losses occurred in China, where 95 per cent of the game market is pirated, the Russian federation, where 97 per cent of the market is pirated, Mexico, where the piracy level is 85 per cent and Hong Kong, where the piracy level is 72 per cent.

Other markets contributing to serious entertainment software piracy are Thailand, Malaysia and Paraguay, according to IDSA.

In addition to the BSA and IDSA, other members of the International Intellectual Property Alliance are the American Film Marketing Association, The Association of American Publishers, The Motion Picture Association of America, The National Music Publishers Association and The Recording Industry Association of America.

Swiss watch exports reach record value in 1998 despite Asia crisis

GENEVA (AFP) — The value of Swiss watch exports set a record of 8.4 billion Swiss francs (\$5.9 billion, 5.25 billion euros) in 1998 despite lower volume and the Asian crisis, the industry federation has said.

The result was based on a strong performance chiefly during the first seven months of 1998, which was followed by a weaker trade environment, a statement from the Swiss Watchmakers Federation

said. Manufacturers sold 31 million watches to beleaguered Asia, a fall of 1.6 per cent from 1997.

Sales to Asia were worth 7.52 billion Swiss francs, a rise of one per cent from 1997 mainly explained by strong exports of steel watches, accounting for 2.8 billion Swiss francs of the total.

Asia's share of the Swiss watch market has fallen to

37 per cent from 44 per cent one year ago.

Business remained buoyant in the United States, Switzerland's largest watch market, with exports up 14.1 per cent to 1.3 billion Swiss francs.

Sales to the European Union also held up well, progressing almost 16 per cent to Italy, five per cent each to Germany and Britain, and 15 per cent to France.

Saab slashes losses

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Saab Automobile reduced net losses in 1998 to 620 million kronor (69.9 million euros, \$79 million) from 1,906 million kronor in 1997, and made an operating profit, the company has said.

Sales in Japan surged. The U.S. group General Motors owns 50 per cent of Saab.

Operating results showed a profit of 68 million kronor from a loss of 1.23 billion kronor. Turnover rose by 27 per cent to 28.418 billion kronor from 22.39 billion kronor in 1997.

SEMI-VILLA TO LET

Area: 260sq.m. Location: Dahiat Rashid. For more information please contact Tel. No.: 5157949m

EXCLUSIVE VILLA FOR SALE/RENT

Located on a hill in a luxurious area in Abdoun, overlooking western Amman. Land space is 1,700 sq.m. building 800sq.m. large sitting areas, 5 bedrooms, large kitchen, big garden with a swimming pool. Patios/terraces, built for the owner.

NAHAS REAL ESTATE: 5825157 - Mobile 079/530029

JOB VACANCY

A leading company in the medical field is seeking to recruit the following positions:

1. Regulatory Affairs (BSc Pharmacy)
2. Territory Managers (BSc Science)

The following qualifications are required:

- Fluency in English
- Computer literacy
- Owns a car
- Fresh graduates preferred

Interested qualified candidates should send their resumes with a recent photo to the following address:

P.O. Box 922768, Amman-11192 Or call 5687667

JORDAN MARKETPLACE *** JORDAN MARKETPLACE *** JORDAN MARKETPLACE

DAJANI JEWELLERS

Many villas and apartments for rent and sale. Furnished & Unfurnished. For more information call: Abdoun Real Estate 5820605/5920609/079/530007 Web Site is www.abdoun.com.jo

STUDIO HAIG Professional quality in 1 hour service. Develop your colour film at our shop and get: * JUMBO photo size 30% larger. * Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm. Shmeisani - Opposite Grindlays Bank. Phone: 5604042 Swefish Tel: 822891

Your Address In Amman. Quality Serviced Suites. * One & Two Bedrooms * Fully Equipped Kitchens * Daily & Long Stay * Reasonable Rates. 5th Circle. Tel: 5692672 - Fax: 5674551 e-mail: crystal@go.com.jo

FOR RENT Deluxe Villas and Apartments. SANABEL Real Estate. SWEIYEH A. Hajarat Complex. Tel: 5864230 - 5865167 Mobile: 079/537588

Budget. Car Rental & Leasing WE RENT LESS. DAILY WEEKLY MONTHLY. Telephone: 962-5-5698131 Fax: 962-5-567312 P.O.Box: 960486 Amman-11196, Jordan E-mail: budget@go.com.jo An Independent Budget system Licensee

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION CALL 5684311 - 5699634 EXT. 42 & Fax: 5693337

Amra Forum Hotel. At 6th Circle Tel.: 5510001. Wadi Rum Bar. The most popular place Live Music ... appearing now: Rita Jazalian. your Friendly Host

Bayerischer Hof. German Restaurant. LUNCH: 12:30p.m. - 3:00 p.m. DINNER: 6:30p.m. - 11:30 p.m. German coffee and cakes served all day. Swefish - Al Hamra Street Tel: 5819730 / 5810811 PO Box 6555, Amman-11118 Jordan

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION CALL 5684311 - 5699634 EXT. 42 & Fax: 5693337

Pacers pass the Bucks in final seconds

MILWAUKEE (R) — Chris Mullin's 18-footer with 18 seconds left snapped a tie and the Indiana Pacers made a pair of big defensive plays to hold on for an 82-80 victory Saturday over the upstart Milwaukee Bucks.

After Mullin's wide-open jumper, the Pacers (6-3) turned to defence for their fourth win in five games. Antonio Davis blocked a lane jumper by Glenn Robinson, who had 31 points and 10 rebounds.

"It was pretty hectic at the end," said Mullin, who scored nine points. "We got our opportunity on Antonio's big block. We knew we had to defend Glenn Robinson, because he's their go-to guy."

Milwaukee had one more chance but when they inbounded to point guard Terrell Brandon, he tried to dribble through a double-team and lost the ball.

The Bucks complained bitterly that Robinson, who led Milwaukee with 31 points, was held on their last possession.

Reggie Miller scored 20 points for the Pacers, who moved into a tie for first in the Central Division with Atlanta.

Indiana entered the game one-half game behind Milwaukee (5-3).

"We got a big block and executed the pick-and-roll," Pacers guard Mark Jackson said. "The Bucks are a great basketball team with great shooters and scorers. Fortunately, we came away with the victory."

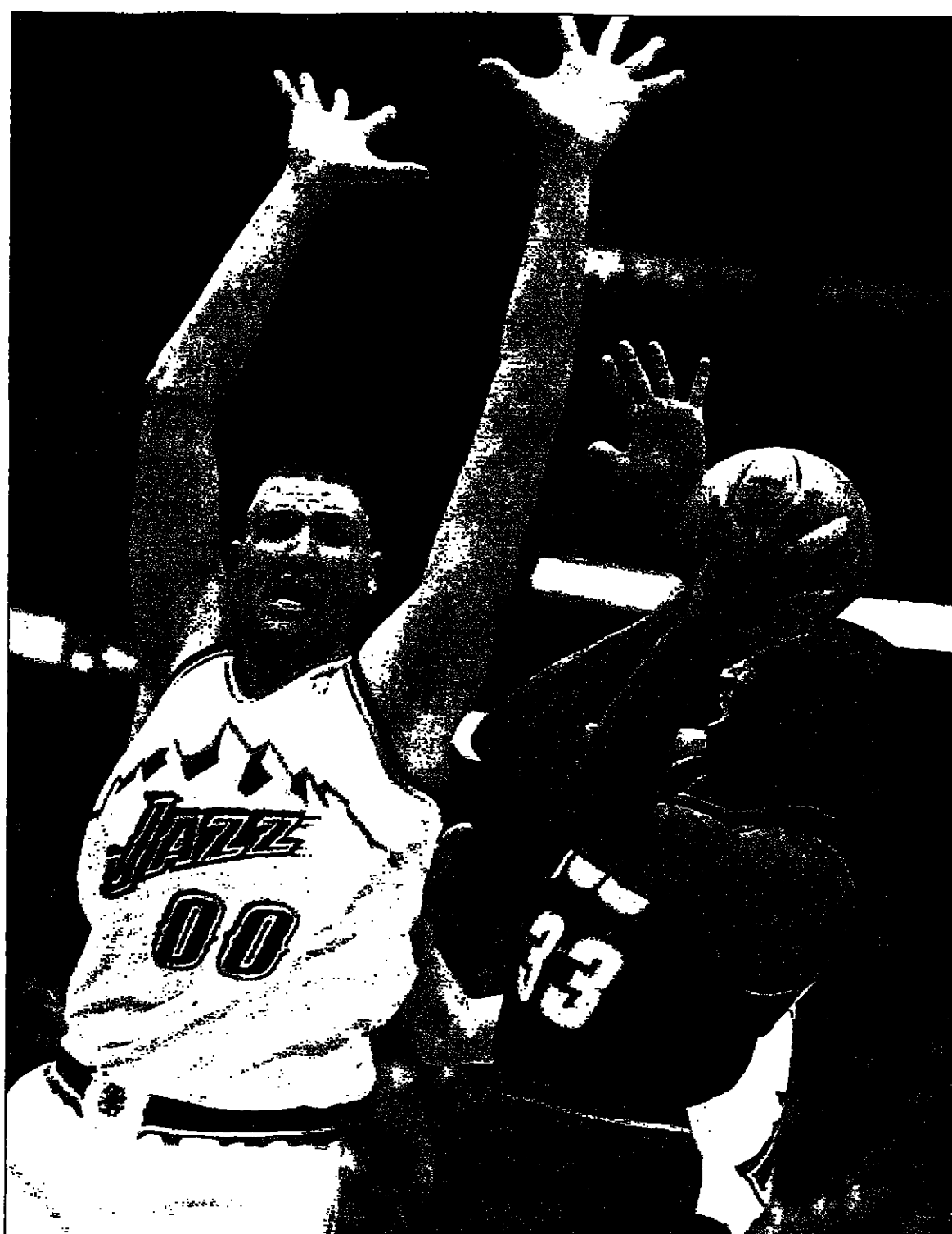
In Salt Lake City, Karl Malone scored 28 points and surpassed 28,000 for his career as the Jazz trounced the SuperSonics 110-80 four days after being embarrassed in Seattle.

In a battle of unbeaten on Tuesday, the SuperSonics shut down the Jazz, 71-56, holding Utah to the second-lowest NBA total since the advent of the shot clock. Malone led the Jazz with only 15 points.

"I think we came out with a lot more energy than what we had up there," Jazz coach Jerry Sloan said.

"We had the advantage Tuesday. They were tired," SuperSonics forward Detlef Schrempf said. "They had things going for them tonight. We didn't."

These teams have represented the Western Conference in the NBA finals the last three seasons. The Jazz improved to 8-1 atop the



Utah Jazz centre Greg Ostertag (L) goes high to block a shot by Seattle SuperSonics guard Hersey Hawkins during the first quarter of their NBA game, on Saturday in Salt Lake City (Reuters photo)

Midwest Division. The Sonics fell to 6-2 with their second straight loss but remain atop the Pacific Division.

Hersey Hawkins scored 24 points for Seattle.

In Miami, the Miami Heat continued to make a mockery of the condensed NBA schedule, win-

ning for the fourth time in six days, 81-71 over the Houston Rockets.

P.J. Brown totalled 24 points and 15 rebounds for Miami, which became the first team to win three games in as many days with a 91-80 victory at Detroit on Wednesday.

Despite the absence of injured starters Jamal Mashburn and Voshon Lenard, Miami has won five in a row in the last 10 days.

"The team was stunned, and embarrassed by their 1-3 start," Miami coach Pat Riley said. "Now they're working harder."

Miami held Houston to a fran-

chise record-low nine points in the third quarter.

In Cleveland, Shawn Kemp had 24 points and 11 rebounds and Derek Anderson added 19 points to lead the Cleveland Cavaliers to their fifth straight victory, 89-84 over the slumping New Jersey Nets.

The Nets, who suffered a heart-breaking overtime loss to Houston on Thursday, held a 78-74 lead with 4:07 to play before the Cavaliers took control down the stretch.

In Portland, Brian Grant scored 18 points and grabbed an NBA season-high 24 rebounds as the Trail Blazers held off the Golden State Warriors 90-84 for their fourth straight victory.

Grant is averaging 19.6 boards over his last three games for Portland, which improved to 4-0 at home.

Isaiah Rider added a season-high 27 points for Portland, which held a 55-35 rebounding advantage over the league's best team on the boards.

Jason Caffey had a season-high 20 points and 12 rebounds for the Warriors, who had a four-game winning streak stopped.

In Los Angeles, Gary Trent came off the bench to score a season-high 25 points and added a career-high 15 rebounds as the Dallas Mavericks snapped a seven-game losing streak with a 105-90 victory over the winless Los Angeles Clippers.

Michael Finley also established a season-high with 31 points for the Mavericks.

In Philadelphia, Mookie Blaylock made two clutch 3-pointers down the stretch to repel a rally as the Atlanta Hawks dealt the Philadelphia 76ers their fourth straight loss, 76-69.

Trailing by 13 points entering the fourth quarter, the 76ers surged within 68-66 before the Hawks struck back.

"I don't think we played that well," Blaylock said.

"You've got to feel that you can put a team away, not let them hang around like we did. But we stuck in there and got a win."

Atlanta's Steve Smith scored 14 points before leaving with a sprained right knee in the third period. Allen Iverson led the Sixers with 26.

King Abdullah affirms Pan-Arab Games will proceed as planned

Prince Ali appointed president of JSF

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Abdullah on Saturday said the 9th Pan-Arab Games will be held on time, May 1999.

King Abdullah, who was speaking during a meeting at the Royal Court with Saleh Irsheidat, head of the higher administrative committee of the 9th Pan-Arab Games, which the Kingdom is hosting, stressed the need for unified efforts in order to ensure the upcoming Games become the success His Majesty the late King Hussein wished.

Also Saturday, and upon directives from King Abdullah, Minister of Social Development and acting Minister of Culture and Youth Mohammad

Khair Mamsar appointed HRH Prince Ali president of the Jordanian Soccer Federation (JSF).

Athletes and sport officials expressed their satisfaction with the appointment, saying that Prince Ali has showed great interest in many sports, expecting he will provide momentum to all sports.

The federation's secretary general Mohammad Hamdan added: "The federation is honoured to have Prince Ali as its president in accordance with the late King Hussein's desire."

Former Minister of Culture and Youth, Saleh Irsheidat, was appointed vice-president of the federation.

Schmitt leads German double in ski jump

BISCHOFSHOFEN, Austria (AP) — Martin Schmitt uncorked a huge second jump to clinch the gold medal and lead a 1-2 German triumph Sunday in the large-hill ski jumping event at the Nordic Ski World Championship.

Schmitt, this year's sensation on the World Cup circuit with seven victories, leaped 129.5 metres off the K120 hill in the second series to beat countryman Sven Hannawald and Japan's Hideharu Miyahira, who took the bronze.

The final results reversed the order of the first heat, when Hannawald jumped 127 metres to lead ahead of Schmitt, who leaped 126.

Schmitt's second jump was by far the longest of the day and gave him a total of 263.4 points. Hannawald, whose second leap was also 127 metres, earned 261.7 points.

Miyahira led a valiant Japanese effort but had to settle for the bronze. His second jump of 128 metres was the second longest of the rainy day and coupled with his first leap of 125.5 gave him a total of 258.8 points.

"Everyone expected me to win and I was under a lot of pressure," said Schmitt, 21.

who has taken ski jumping by a storm in his third season. But he had already caught attention last year when he helped Germany win the silver medal in the Olympic team event in Nagano.

"I had to take risks. The double victory is an excellent result," he said.

Hannawald, who has been struggling throughout the season, said he wasn't disappointed by missing the gold. "I achieved my goal," he said. While the Japanese had the superior style on their side, the Germans had longer jumps.

Janne Ahonen of Finland, the 1997 normal hill world champion and World Cup leader, took fourth place, ahead of Kazuyoshi Funaki of Japan, the Olympic normal hill champion and Masahiko Harada, another Japanese who was the defending champion.

The most prominent victims of the first round were Olympic large-hill champion Jani Soininen of Finland, last two seasons' overall World Cup winner and Lasse Ottesen of Norway, a 1994 Olympics silver medalist. They all failed to make the cut of 30 qualifiers for the second round.

Tyson faces disciplinary hearing after tossing TV

ROCKVILLE, Maryland (AFP) — Jailed former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson faces a disciplinary hearing here Monday after hurling a television set into a set of metal bars, officials said.

The outburst could prompt prison officials to place tighter restrictions on Tyson, who with good behavior might be able to resume fight training in May and box through a work release programme.

No one was injured in Tyson's angry outburst, which came Friday night at the Montgomery county detention center, where he spent Saturday in isolation.

"He threw a TV," county corrections department spokesman Eric Seleznow said. "He threw it against some bars with people on the other side."

Tyson, 32, has been kept with about 12 other prisoners in a special section of the jail secluded from the main population of 640 prisoners since he received a one-year jail sentence Feb. 5.

Tyson pleaded no contest to assault charges stemming



Mike Tyson (File photo)

from an August 31 auto accident in which he punched an elderly man and kicked another after their vehicle re-ended one being driven by Tyson's wife Monica.

Attorneys for Tyson have two weeks to file an appeal of the sentence and seek a trial on the charges if they desire.

An Indiana judge is waiting to see what action, if any, Tyson takes before ruling

whether or not Tyson's actions violated his probation for a 1992 rape conviction. That probation is scheduled to expire next month.

No conviction was made against Tyson because of his no contest plea, which has no equivalent under Indiana law. But if Tyson is ruled to have violated his probation, he could face punishment up to another four years in prison.

Athletic Bilbao topples Madrid 1-0, jeers return for Real

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Santiago Ezquerro continued Real Madrid's woes on Saturday, scoring in the 73rd minute to lift Athletic Bilbao 1-0 and renew calls for the dismissal of Real coach Gus Hiddink.

The loss at home was Madrid's second-straight and third in its last five league matches, dropping it to 11-4-8 and 37 points, in fifth place in the Spanish league but in danger of slipping a spot when Deportivo La Coruna plays its 23rd round match Sunday.

The victory improved Bilbao to seventh place with a 10-7-5 record and 37 points, six behind Primera division leader Barcelona, which was to face third-placed Celta on Sunday.

In two other games Saturday, Extremadura beat Betis 2-1 and Zaragoza won 4-2 over Racing in Santander.

But in Madrid, Real pushed forward constantly but lacked coordination and its attacks dissipated.

Bilbao nearly went ahead in the 55th minute when Ismael Urzaiz's header was spectacularly saved by Real's German keeper Bodo Illgner. But Illgner couldn't stop Ezquerro's right-footed smash 18 minutes later.

By the final whistle, the white-handkerchief waving crowd at Santiago Bernabeu stadium was on its feet "fuera, fuera" (out, out) at the club manager Lorenzo Sanz as well as Hiddink.

Hiddink's job has looked increasingly uncertain in recent weeks, especially on a 3-0 drubbing by arch-rival Barcelona on Feb. 14. Wednesday's 6-2 victory over racing in the Copa Del Rey afforded him a momentary reprieve, but Saturday's loss only fueled his problems.

"We played well in the first half. We had bad luck," Hiddink said. "I am not a frightened man."

Elsewhere, at Almedralejo, Argentine striker Carlos Dure score with two minutes remaining, capping a flurry which saw all three goals in the final 12 minutes and giving Extremadura the victory.

Extremadura took the lead in the 78th minute on a penalty converted by Jose Toril,



Real Madrid's Raul Gonzalez, left, goes for a high ball against an unidentified Athletic Bilbao player during a league soccer match in Real's Santiago Bernabeu stadium on Saturday in Madrid. Real lost the match 0-1 (AP photo)

but Jose Galvez equalised for Betis within five minutes.

At Santander, four different players scored for Zaragoza and it cruised to its victory over racing.

Roberto Acuna of Paraguay put Zaragoza ahead in the 20th minutes and Pablo Jose Diaz scored the eventual game winner nine minutes later to put his side ahead 2-1.

Bosnian Sabo Milosovic made in 3-1 in the 69th and Marcos Vales added the finale just before the final whistle.

The remaining 23rd-round matches were set for Sunday with Mallorca at Oviedo, Atletico Madrid at Real Sociedad, Alaves hosts Tenerife, Salamanca welcomes Villarreal and Valencia plays at home to Valladolid, as does Espanyol against Deportivo La Coruna.

Only three top teams survive French Cup

PARIS (R) — The French Cup lived up to its reputation of unpredictability on Saturday as only three teams from the first division were left in the third round of the competition after Saturday's matches.

Lens, Metz and Nantes, all out of contention for the league title, made amends by saving their scalps in a second round which saw Olympique Marseille, Paris St Germain,

Rennes, Sochaux, Le Havre and Strasbourg all crash out.

It was the worst ever showing by first division teams in the history of the cup.

There will be more teams from the fourth and fifth divisions in the next round than top flight teams, with amateurs St Georges Les Ancizes the unlikely heroes of the week-end thanks to their 1-0 victory over Sochaux on Friday.

FOR RENT
Brand new super deluxe semi-villa in a quiet residential area in Al Rabia
Area: 370 sq.m. Consists of 3 bedrooms (one master), a study room, 3 full bathrooms, spacious salons with adjoining dining room, large living room with fireplace and balcony, marble floors, spacious kitchen, maid's quarters, separate entrance and garden area, water reservoir.
For the interested and serious call Tel.: 5518244

CAR FOR SALE
Mercedes E200 — Duty Free
In top excellent condition, model 94, Diamond black, automatic, sunroof, 2 air bags, 2 electric windows, original radio cassette, original 90,000km, with German maintenance + service book. Price: JD9,750.
For seriously interested please call: 5823789

Vacancy
The American Embassy in Amman has a vacancy for a: **Electrician**, to perform maintenance, repair, installation of all plant equipment and systems including emergency power supply. Applicants must have completed high school; three years of experience in similar field; valid driving license; good English; and ability to work under pressure.
Only qualified applicants should submit an application form (available at the Embassy gate) to the Personnel Office prior to February 25, 1999.

80,000 Sydney residents get first look at new Olympic stadium

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — About 80,000 Sydney residents turned out on sunny Sunday to get their first walk around the athletics track the stadium that will house the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2000 Olympics.

New South Wales state Olympics minister Michael Knight said the huge turnout for the great stadium walk showed the public still supported the Sydney games despite the international Olympic bribery scandal.

It was the public's first opportunity to see inside the 110,000-seat stadium located at Homebush Bay, which will open with a rugby league double-header

on March 6. "I think this really shows that Sydneysiders and Australian people in general are interested in the Olympics and not in the International Olympic Committee and all the nonsense to do with Salt Lake City," Knight told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio.

The first person in line for the historic walk was 67-year-old Struan Lampport, who declared it "wonderful."

"I've been looking forward to absorbing some of the atmosphere that the athletes will experience," Lampport said.

"I've been to homebush bay before and I think it's fantastic."

Turkey warns Europe to stay out of Ocalan trial

Kurds stage protests in Iran

Agencies

TURKISH PRIME Minister Bulent Ecevit warned Europeans Sunday to mind their own business as Ankara prepares for the trial of Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan.

"We will expect the politicians and governments of foreign countries and the representatives of any international body to refrain from attempts to put pressure on our courts," Ecevit told reporters in Ankara.

"Particularly those governments who have prevented their own judiciary from performing their functions as a concession to PKK [Kurdish Labour Party] terrorism are not entitled to give lessons in justice to any country," he added.

A European Union (EU) spokesman earlier said that EU foreign ministers plan to take up the issue at a meeting on Monday, and the Council of Europe has announced a forthcoming visit to Turkey to demand guarantees for a fair trial of Ocalan.

"We would consider such attempts as an unacceptable affront to Turkish justice," Ecevit said.

The Turkish foreign ministry also warned Europeans against meddling in the Turkish judiciary process.

"The most important contribution the European Union, the Council of Europe and the other circles can make to this process is to fulfil their own responsibilities in the fight against terrorism, instead of pretending they can manipulate it," the ministry said Sunday.

Turkey would not tolerate any outside interference with the trial, it added.

Three prosecutors from the Ankara state security court on Sunday flew to the prison island of Imrali, where Ocalan is being held, to begin interrogation.

Prosecutor Talat Salk said the interrogations would be completed by Tuesday.

After a month for the prosecution to prepare the indictment and another two weeks for the defence to review it, the trial should open in early April and be wrapped up within weeks for a verdict sometime in May, according to Turkish press reports.

This timetable means that the trial will coincide with parliamentary elections scheduled for April 18.

Turkish police detained 380 people in Istanbul for involvement in protests supporting Ocalan during which five policemen were shot and wounded, Anadolu news agency said on Sunday.

Meanwhile, violent anti-Turkish demonstrations have erupted across western Iran in protest at the capture of Ocalan, Iranian newspapers and Kurdish groups reported Sunday.

Protesters have taken to the streets in several towns in Iran's western Kurdistan provinces since Friday and several people were reported killed in clashes with security forces.

"Demonstrations, chanting slogans in support of the Kurdish movement in Iranian Kurdistan and calling for a solution to the Kurdish problem were attacked by government forces and their demonstration was bloodily repressed," the Iran branch of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) said.

"According to the information we have, several people have been killed and wounded and dozens of others arrested," the KDP said in a statement received in Nicosia.

Iran's conservative Quds newspaper reported sporadic clashes between police and demonstrators in the town of Orumiye, while Jahan-e-Islam newspaper said two youngsters were killed by police attempting to ward off an attack on the Turkish consulate there.

The daily Hamshamri, the paper of the Tehran municipality, said there had also been clashes in the western towns of Sanandaj, Baneh and Saqez.

The police were reported to have intervened to break up Kurdish rallies, and markets in a number of other towns closed in protest.

Kurdish sources said the interior ministry had given them permission to hold a rally outside the U.N. building in Tehran on Sunday to demand Ocalan's release.

An influential Iranian Kurd MP called on the country's Kurdish population to rise up in protest against Turkey, which he accused of having "repressed the Kurdish people and flouted their rights for decades."

"Turkish leaders must know that Ocalan's capture will not hinder the legitimate struggle of Kurds in Turkey," Bahadur Aday told parliament on Sunday.

In Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his cabinet praised Israeli security guards who shot and killed three Kurdish protesters who stormed Israel's consulate in Berlin last week.

"The prime minister and other cabinet ministers expressed their appreciation and praise for the manner in which consulate security guards responded to the incident," said a statement released after the weekly cabinet meeting.

"It said the ministers were briefed on Wednesday's shooting by Ami Ayalon, head of the Shin Bet secret service which is responsible for guarding the country's diplomatic missions, and by Foreign Ministry Director General Eitan Ben-Tsur.

Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon issued a statement Sunday warning Kurds that Israel would take "all necessary measures to defend its diplomatic missions and citizens in coordination with local authorities."

He also stressed that Israel has "deep and friendly relations with the Kurdish people" and reaffirmed that Israel was not involved in Ocalan's capture.



NEED A LIFT? Rickshaw pullers wait Sunday for customers on a Beijing streetcorner. Rickshaws have not been seen in the Chinese capital for many years, but a company which runs tours of Beijing's back alleys recently received permission to use a small number of them as a tourist novelty (AP photo)

Ban sought against Arab Israeli party

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Israeli minister demanded Sunday that an Arab Israeli party, the National Democratic Alliance, be banned from running in May elections because it rejects the definition of Israel as a Jewish state.

"A party which rejects the existence of the state of Israel as a Jewish state is breaking the law and cannot put forward candidates for election," said Michael Eitan, a minister without portfolio in Prime Minister Netanyahu's right-wing government.

Eitan also attacked the alliance's leader, outgoing member of parliament Azmi Bishara, for statements supporting the Lebanese Islamist militia Hizbollah, which is waging a war against Israel's occupation of south Lebanon.

known by its Arabic acronym, Balad, from running candidates in the May 17 parliamentary elections.

Balad held a convention Saturday in the Arab Israeli city of Nazareth to define its campaign platform and pick its slate of candidates for the polls.

In the previous parliamentary election in 1996, Balad ran a joint list of candidates with the Jewish-Arab Hadash, or Communist Party, which elected five deputies to the 120-member Knesset.

At Saturday's convention and in radio interviews Sunday, Bishara said his party would strive to "eradicate the Jewish-Zionist nature of the state and its racist laws."

"It's time for Israel to become a normal country for all its citizens and not be defined as a homeland for all the world's Jews," Bishara said on Sunday, calling in particular for the abrogation of

the law of return which gives all Jews automatic Israeli citizenship.

"We must change the image and take into account that more than a million Arabs live in this country," said Bishara, a philosophy professor at Bir Zeit University on the West Bank.

Arab Israelis, Palestinians who refused to flee their homes located within the borders of Israel when the Jewish state was created in 1948, now make up 18 per cent of the country's total population of six million.

Orly Adass, a spokeswoman for the elections commission, said Israeli law permits the outlawing of political groups on three grounds — "negating the existence of the state of Israel as a state of the Jewish nation, negating the democratic nature of the state and inciting racism."

One Arab party, the Land Movement, was barred from running for elections in the 1960s before the current election laws were in place, Adass said. She was unable to say why the party was outlawed.

Bishara also outraged Eitan by speaking favourably Saturday about Hizbollah, whose fighters have killed scores of Israeli troops in the Israeli-occupied buffer zone of South Lebanon over the past decade.

He described Hizbollah as "a brave nationalist force which has taught Israel some lessons."

"Hizbollah, an Islamist movement, has through its firmness and sacrifices become a symbol in the modern Arab World for its battle against the Israeli occupation of South Lebanon," he said.

Sudan president says ready to let south secede

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's President Omar Hassan Bashir has said he is ready to let the south secede if that would end the country's 15-year-old civil war.

State television on Saturday night quoted Bashir as telling a Qatari television station his government would continue to try to preserve the unity of the mainly Muslim north and the Christian and animist south but that secession was better than war.

"The possibilities of unity stand, so do the possibilities of separation," said Bashir, who leads an Islamist government.

"However, the option of separation with peace is better than that of unity with the continuation of the war."

The civil war in Sudan has been raging since 1983 between Khartoum and the main rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army, which has been fighting for autonomy in the south.

Initial reactions to Bashir's remarks from southerners were supportive but cautious.

"I hope Bashir will now make good his promise and let the south go because lasting peace will not come unless the south is independent," said one southerner.

Another was sceptical, saying: "Most northern politicians say they are going to give southerners what they want, but none has really given us what we want most — our freedom."

The independent Al Rai Al Aam newspaper said on Sunday the government had opted for dialogue with the opposition.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arrests in Omagh bomb case

BELFAST (R) — Police on both sides of the Irish border said on Sunday they had made some arrests in connection with Northern Ireland's worst bombing. The arrests, linked to last August's bombing of the town of Omagh in which 29 people were killed, were made early in the day in what appeared to be coordinated police raids on both sides of the Irish border. A Belfast police spokesman declined to say how many people were arrested in British-ruled Northern Ireland. But in the Irish Republic, police said five people were detained in Dundalk. Responsibility for the Omagh bomb, which also injured 200 people, was claimed by the Real IRA, a renegade republican guerrilla splinter group opposed to the peace process.

'Remains of 70 found in Algiers grave'

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian rescue workers excavating a mass grave near Algiers have unearthed the remains of at least 70 people believed to be victims of Islamists, the local daily Liberté said on Sunday. "The remains of at least 70 people have been removed by rescue workers from a mass grave in Staïfa district in Ouled Aïet town, 20-km south of central Algiers," Liberté said, quoting rescue workers. It said the people whose remains had been unearthed had been killed by Islamists and their bodies dumped into the grave. Ouled Aïet was the main base of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), Algeria's most radical guerrilla faction, from 1994 to 1996 when government troops recovered control of the area after fierce battles, according to Liberté.

Israelis wound Lebanese woman

SIDON (AFP) — A Lebanese woman was wounded Sunday when Israeli forces fired on a village next to the zone they occupy in south Lebanon, police said. Sana Shibani, 33, was hit in the shoulder by a bullet fired from an Israeli post on Arab Salim in the Iqlim Al Touffah heights, a stronghold of the Hizbollah guerrilla movement which is fighting the Israeli occupation. So far this year one Lebanese civilian has been killed and 16 others wounded by Israeli forces, according to an AFP count.

Mubarak to Italy, Germany for talks

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, in a trip to Italy and Germany this week, is expected to urge Europe to shoulder a greater role in Middle East peace efforts. "A main European political role is needed at this stage," Foreign Minister Amr Musa told reporters on Saturday. He said Mubarak would also discuss Egypt's partnership negotiations with the European Union (EU) and the Kosovo crisis. Mubarak will arrive in Rome on Monday and go to Berlin on Tuesday, presidential sources said. Earlier this month he held talks with French President Jacques Chirac in Paris.

Iran reports inspection of chemical sites

TEHRAN (R) — A team of international chemical weapons inspectors toured Iran's chemical sites last week to ensure it abided by its commitment not to produce such weapons, the official Iranian News Agency IRNA reported on Sunday. The inspectors from the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons visited the unidentified sites to "verify the truth of the statements made" by Iran on the nature of their operations, it said. IRNA did not say where the facilities were located or what they produced.

Man charged with libel for sending complaint to Mubarak

CAIRO (AP) — A university student angry over a land dispute faces two years in jail for trying to send Egypt's president a telegram claiming there is no justice under his regime.

"Justice is lost," 27-year-old Mohammad Teyfour wrote in the telegram. "Security has been lost in your era, Mubarak. No to injustice, no to lack of security, no to Mubarak."

The telegram was never sent by the operator in the Nile delta town of Damanhour who, likely fearing reprisals himself, contacted the police instead. Teyfour was charged with libel and insulting the president, which

can carry up to two years in prison.

The telegram was printed Sunday in the weekly opposition Al Arabi newspaper. It said that he was arrested soon after trying to send the telegram Jan. 22. On Saturday, he was ordered detained another 15 days, the opposition Al Wafd newspaper reported Sunday.

Human rights groups in Egypt criticised the arrest. "It is his right to express himself," said Said Abdul Hafez, an attorney with the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights.

"If he didn't have that right, then all the opposition parties would be in jail right now," he said.

Police officials refused to comment on the case.

Teyfour's arrest comes amid a growing crackdown on dozens of journalists and activists accused of libelling officials. Since January 1998, six journalists have been sentenced for libel.

Teyfour, angered that police had not pursued a family complaint against their landlord, went to the telephone office in Damanhour, 140 kilometres northwest of Cairo, Al Arabi reported.

He also tried to send the telegram to the head of Egypt's state security service and the head of police in his province.

Yemen kidnap suspect provides court with alibi

ADEN (R) — One of the five suspects on trial in Yemen for the kidnapping and murder of Western tourists on Sunday provided the court with witnesses who said he was not at the scene of the kidnapping when the incident took place.

Four witnesses told the court that Mohammed Ali Atef, 26, was in Rada, an area far away from where the tourists were kidnapped.

The suspects, members of the little-known Aden-Abyan Islamic Army, are facing trial for kidnapping 16 Western tourists in Yemen in December. Four hostages — three Britons and an Australian — were killed when Yemeni security forces stormed the kidnappers' hideout.

Yemen says the kidnappers had already begun killing hostages, but Britain has questioned this version of events.

The court also heard reports by the prosecution related to the location of the kidnapping, the bodies of the killed Westerners and weapons seized from the suspects by Yemeni troops.

The defendants did not challenge any of the prosecutor's reports.

Zein Al Abideen Al Mehdar, the self-confessed leader of the group, told the court earlier that his group planned anti-Western operations including an attack on a church.

Mehdar, also known as Abu Al Hassan, told the court that

he used to send statements to Abu Hamza Al Masri, head of the London-based Supporters of Sharia (Islamic law) group, for him to send to the media.

Yemen wants Britain to hand over Al Masri, but British officials say they have received no formal extradition request.

The prosecutor on Thursday presented as evidence a number of items found in Mehdar's possession including military maps of Yemen, articles on developments in Afghanistan, photographs of Saudi Arabian dissident Osama Bin Laden and videotaped lectures on jihad or holy struggle, including some by Masri.

Mehdar confirmed to the court the items were his.

Iran blames Iraq for assassination of senior cleric

TEHRAN (R) — Iran blamed Iraq on Sunday for the assassination of a leading Iraqi Shiite Muslim cleric and his two sons, saying the murders were part of a systematic campaign of repression against the country's Shiite community.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei issued a statement condemning the killings of Ayatollah Mohammad Sadeq Al Sadr and his sons on Friday, the second attack on senior Shiite clerics in Iraq this year.

An Iran-based Iraqi Shiite opposition group said there were major demonstrations in Baghdad and Karbala in southern Iraq on Saturday in protest at the assassinations.

The Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq said that dozens were killed and wounded and hundreds more arrested.

Iraq has denied reports of protests in the Baghdad area. Iran's state television later accused Iraqi authorities of burying the bodies of the victims before announcing their

deaths on Saturday. Theological schools in the holy Iranian city of Qom, as well as Tehran's powerful bazaar, were closed on Sunday in commemoration of the victims.

"Shiite Muslims of Iraq have been systematically persecuted in Iraq in recent years. The oppression of Shiites in that country has reached its peak now," Khamenei said. The Iranian leader said predominantly Shiite Iran held Iraq responsible for the deaths of Sadr and his sons.

"Baghdad will be held accountable to the entire world, especially Muslim countries, for what has been happening in Iraq," he said in a statement published in newspapers.

Iranian television said relations between Sadr and the Baghdad government turned sour six months ago following the assassination of two other senior Shiite clerics in Iraq. It charged that Iraq had recently tried to bar Sadr from holding Friday prayers, but that he had refused to budge.

His followers forcibly entered a mosque in southern Iraq last week for the prayers and they intended to do the same this Friday when the ayatollah was assassinated.

Sadr, a leading Shiite religious figure from the Iraqi holy city of Najaf, was said by Iraqis to be a very popular cleric whose Friday prayers drew large crowds.

Iran's foreign ministry has demanded the arrest and punishment of the murderers.

The Iraqi News Agency said on Saturday that several of the

killers had been arrested and described the murders as part of a plot to provoke unrest in the country.

The killings were the second reported attack against a Shiite cleric in Iraq this year. Iraqi opposition said last month a cleric was wounded in the southern city of Najaf.

There have been recurrent reports of unrest between the Sunni Muslim-led regime of President Saddam Hussein and Shiites, who make up 65 per cent of Iraq's 22 million people.

Eritrea says Ethiopian planes miss target in attack on airport

ASMARA (R) — Ethiopian Antonov bombers attacked the airport at Eritrea's Red Sea port, Assab, on Sunday, but Eritrean officials said all the bombs missed their targets.

Hagos Woldu, a government official in Assab, contacted by telephone, said two Ethiopian Antonov bombers dropped 12 bombs near Assab airport shortly after 6:00 a.m. local time.

"There were no casualties. The bombs did not hit their target which

appeared to be the airport runway," he said.

"The closest bomb fell 200 metres from the airport, and the others fell further away along the Red Sea shore."

Woldu added there was no damage to port installations.

Earlier, Ethiopian spokeswoman Selome Tadesse said Ethiopian planes had inflicted "heavy damage" on the airport at Assab.

"This airport is a strategic military target which Eritrea could use to launch an offensive against Ethiopia. Ethiopia will go on hitting selected military positions in Eritrea," she said.

It was the first time in the current round of fighting between the two Horn of Africa states that Ethiopia has bombed an Eritrean airport.

Assab, at the southern end of the Red Sea, was a vital conduit for landlocked Ethiopia's trade before the

border dispute flared into war last May.

Ethiopia has now switched its trade to nearby Djibouti, which is linked by rail and road with Addis Ababa.

Fighting restarted on Feb. 6 — first on a front at Badme, southwest of the Eritrean capital, Asmara, then on a second front at Tsoroma and then at Bure, 70 km southwest of Assab.

Fighting along the border subsided last week, and there were no reports

on Sunday of new military activity on the ground.

Ethiopia says it has no intention of gaining Eritrean territory and says it only wants to recapture land occupied by Eritrea during fighting last year.

A European Union delegation left the region on Saturday after trying unsuccessfully to broker a ceasefire. It was the latest in a series of peace initiatives led by the Organisation of African Unity and the United States.

Children, teacher stabbed in Latvia

Three young children were stabbed in Latvia on Monday in a schoolyard. A 12-year-old boy was stabbed in the back, a 10-year-old girl in the arm, and a 7-year-old girl in the leg. The children were taken to hospital and are expected to recover. The police are investigating the incident.

NYC seizes cars of drunken drivers

New York City police seized several cars on Monday in a campaign to remove vehicles from the streets of drivers who are too intoxicated to drive. The police said they had seized 15 cars in the last 24 hours. The drivers were taken to hospital and the cars were impounded.

EU farmers, police clash during demo

Tens of thousands of farmers from across the European Union gathered in Brussels on Monday to protest against the EU's proposed agricultural reforms. The protesters clashed with police, who used tear gas to clear the area. The farmers are demanding that the reforms be scrapped.